A HISTORY
OF THE
CITY OF VINCENNES

1702-1901

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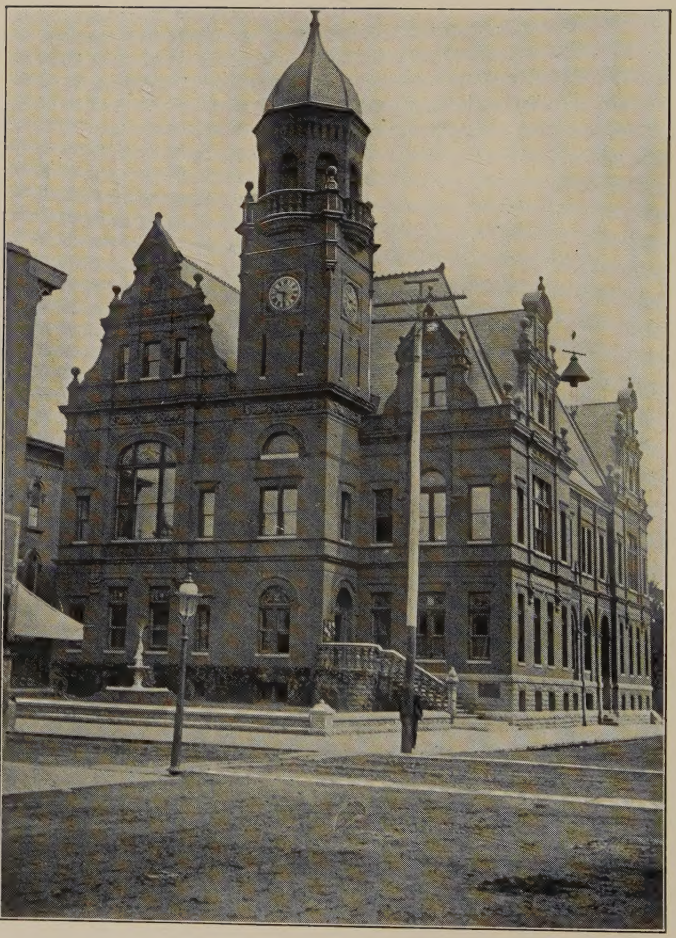

CITY HALL.

A HISTORY

OF THE

CITY OF VINCENNES,

INDIANA

FROM 1702 TO 1901

BY

HENRY S. CAUTHORN

OCTOBER 15, 1901.

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PREFACE.

I propose to write a history of Vincennes, Indiana. This place is the oldest town within the limits of the State of Indiana. With the exception of Detroit, Michigan, which was settled by the French in 1670, and of Kaskaskia, Illinois, which was also settled by the French in 1673, it is the oldest town in that vast territorial expanse formerly known as "The Territory Northwest of the River Ohio," out of which the five great States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin have been formed.

In the preparation of the history I will gather material from authentic and reliable sources. Of course some data which I will use have already found their way into print and are now part of the general history of the country. In addition thereto I will consult and be aided by many manuscript documents by learned and truthful men which have never as yet been published. I will also obtain valuable information from the writings of Bishop Brute, the first Catholic Bishop of Vincennes, from the files of the *Western Sun* newspaper embracing the years 1807 to 1845, the records of St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, reaching from April, 1749, to the present, and will trust reliable and well authenticated traditions, and also matters within my own personal knowledge with a receptive and retentive memory covering a period of at least sixty-six years.

I will endeavor to make the recital both pleasing and interesting to the reader, and hope to contribute some historic matter concerning the place and its antecedents which have never yet been accessible to the general reader. And above all will endeavor to make the presentation of facts and incidents both truthful and reliable.

HENRY S. CAUTHORN.

VINCENNES, OCTOBER 15, 1901.

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A HISTORY OF VINCENNES.

CHAPTER I.

Location.

Vincennes is situated on the east bank of the Wabash River 150 miles above its junction with the Ohio. It is distant 192 miles west of Cincinnati, Ohio; 151 miles east of St. Louis, Missouri; 236 miles south of Chicago, Illinois; 51 miles north of the Ohio River at Evansville, and 117 miles southwest of Indianapolis, the capital of the State of Indiana.

The United States Government in 1883 made an accurate geodetic survey of the United States. Vincennes was selected as one of the stations for observation. The station here was located near the geographical centre of the town in the Court House yard off the northeast side of the Court House and is marked by three stones set in concrete, the centre one nearly flush with the surface and bearing an "X" mark. Latitude of the station point, 38° 40′ 39″. Longitude west of Greenwich, 5 h, 50 min, .0888 sec, or 87° 31′ 28″.

It is situated on high grounds beyond the possible reach of inundation and is bounded on the northeast and southwest by beautiful and fertile prairies, and on the southeast by a picturesque range of hills covered in part by forest trees and presenting from the city an attractive and pleasing landscape view.

The location is peculiarly fortunate and safe, occupying as it does a level depression surrounded on most sides by elevated grounds and hills which protect it from the chilly blasts of winter and the destructive storms of summer so prevalent and

desolating in portions of the west. The surrounding hills operate as a bulwark to divert and elevate the course of passing winds and thus shield and protect it from their fury, so that during the long period of time the site has been the home of civilization no occasion for alarm has been furnished and not the least damage has been done to life or property within its limits on this account. It has numbered among its structures, steeples and towers insecurely anchored, but which stood for years unharmed and until removed by design.

Vincennes in early times was a fine field for sportsmen. As late as 1852 the quail in the fall of the year invaded the town and as many as desired could be killed without leaving its corporate limits. And during the same time prairie chickens were so numerous that as many as sufficient to satisfy the most grasping sportsman could be killed in its immediate vicinity.

There are on the southeast side of the city three beautiful mounds, the most noted and picturesque evidences of the work of the mound builders to be found anywhere. These mounds overlook and are in full view from the city. They add much to the physical appearance and beauty of the location, and are in fact a handsome background, and from their summits the best view of the city can be obtained. And when viewed from their heights, the city, located as it is upon a level plain, and the streets on either side ornamented with shade trees, appears to advantage and seems as if located in one large, unbroken forest.

There is a fiction connected with these mounds that Gen. Clark, when he approached the place in February, 1779, marched his troops around one of them in a circle many times to impress the inhabitants with the magnitude of his force. No such performance ever took place. Gen. Clark says in his account that he did not wish to surprise the people. He met two Frenchmen of the village when he was at Warrior's Is-

land, two miles below the place, and by them sent a message to the inhabitants of the town to the effect that he did not wish to surprise them, and warning all who were friendly to the "hair buyer" general, as he called Hamilton, to join him in the fort. Warrior's Island in the prairie two miles below Vincennes was in full view of the town and his force could be seen and numbered there, and any such performance as marching around one of the mounds to create a false impression of his force would have been detected and inspired merited contempt and disgust. This alleged performance may be credited to many others designed to magnify the exploits of Clark and invest them with colors of romance akin to the deeds of chivalry. Gen. Clark himself says in his report that when he sent his message to the inhabitants of the town by the two Frenchmen from Warrior's Island that he knew that the French inhabitants were friendly to him, as was also "Tobacco's Son," the most powerful Indian chief in the country. It seems cruel to spoil this romantic story, but regard for truth compels it to be done.

The streets of the city are all level and graded with gravel containing a co-hesive substance which when first taken from its bed is of a dull red color, but upon exposure to the air soon cements and makes a hard and substantial road bed, and also bleaches and presents a bright and shining appearance, and gives the city streets the appearance of threads of silver winding through shaded avenues.

The sidewalks are as level as a sheet of paper, and when improved with granitoid, of which many miles have already been constructed, and many more miles are being added each year, gives the city sidewalks that cannot be surpassed anywhere, and but rarely equaled.

The site of Vincennes has always been admired and praised by all travellers, who ever visited the place. Count Volney in his account of his travels refers to it as a garden spot remind-

ing him of some of the vine-clad provinces of France. It was in 1796 that he visited the place, and he says the village on all sides was surrounded by the most luxurious vineyards from which abundance of the purest wines were made by the villagers, and that the prairies adjoining the village were covered with the finest fruit orchards he ever saw. This condition as to the fruit orchards continued in the lower prairies until within the memory of men still living. But the vineyards and orchards have now disappeared and their places have been given up to the cultivation of wheat and corn. Mr. Scott, in a gazetteer, published in 1793, says that a pleasant wine was made here of old.

In 1765 Col. Croghan came here to treat with the Miami and Illinois tribes. In his report he praised Post Vincennes as "one of the finest situations that can be found." He praised the soil as very rich, "producing wheat and tobacco, and that the tobacco raised here is preferable and superior to that of Maryland and Virginia, and that Post Vincennes is a place of great importance for trade."

William H. English, when he first visited the place in 1891, thus speaks of it in his history of the Northwest:

"In addition to its early settlement and the multitude of interesting incidents connected with its history, its location and surroundings are so attractive that one can readily understand why it was a favorite of the Indians in the earliest times, and subsequently of the French and others of the white race. There are few places where life at all periods has been more thoroughly and philosophically enjoyed than at the 'Old Post' St. Vincents, the modern city of Vincennes."

CHAPTER II.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The topographical situation and site upon which the city of Vincennes stands is remarkable and worthy of attention. The area it occupies may be called a gravel bank extending from the surface to the water line below. No point in this area has been pierced and penetrated where this gravel formation has not been exposed. In 1880 the city authorities excavated on Busseron street between Second and Third streets, for a cistern for the use of the fire department. It was excavated to the water line below and gravel and sand were only found in the progress of the work. At a considerable depth below the surface a large isolated lump of coal was found imbedded in gravel both above and below.

The conformation of the surrounding hills indicate that in the remote past they were the restraining barriers of volumes of water either in a flowing stream or confined lake. Everything around the site of a natural formation indicates the former presence and active agency of water which has been expelled from the surface and the site of the city elevated by some mighty upheaval. A similar but gradual and quiet process has been observable since the advent of civilized men. In 1804, and for many years after the village was annually surrounded by water and the *pirogues*, as they were called, used by the early French settlers, circumnavigated the village at flood seasons and unloaded their cargoes in the rear of the high ground upon which the Court House stands.

As late as 1836 the topographical appearance of the place was unique. The river front at Hart street was called the stone landing. From that point abruptly rose and extended

along the entire river front to the prairie below, a pure gravel hill fifteen or twenty-five feet in height above the present level of the city streets. It presented an abrupt face to the river but gradually sloped in the direction of First street. This gravel hill has been removed by the city authorities to grade streets and fill depressions in other parts of the city. Between this gravel hill and the elevated ground upon which the Court House stands the village was originally located and mostly below Broadway street. This space in many places was unfit for occupation owing to the presence of ponds and surface water. From a point near the intersection of Perry and Fifth streets, running diagonally through the town in the direction of the public cemetery, the ground was low and little better than a pond, and was covered by water most of the year. Immediately beyond the high ground upon which the Court House stands was an immense pond called "Dinah's pond," having a depth of several feet, and which was sustained to a considerable depth throughout the year.

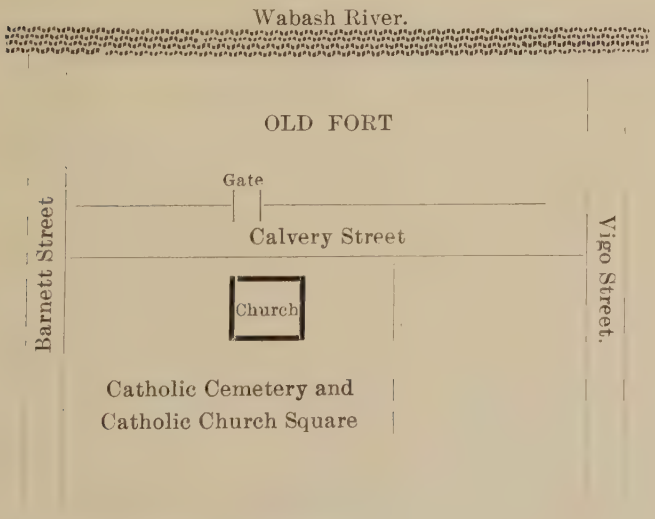
The first road leading from Vincennes to the east in the direction of Louisville, Kentucky, was by way of Petersburg over what was called the "Buffalo trace," so-called as stated by old residents who had travelled over it from the fact that it had been originally traced through the intervening forest by the immense herds of buffalo that passed over it in their annual migrations back and forth from the blue grass regions of Kentucky. They crossed the Kentucky River at the "great crossings" in Scott county, the Ohio River at the falls at Louisville, and the Wabash at the ford just below this place, and thence to the rich prairie lands of Illinois beyond. This "buffalo trace" was the only and usual route of travel from Vincennes to the east for many years after 1804.

As late as 1846 the road to Louisville passed out of town on the southeast and thence to what is now called "Burnet heights," and over what was then in its course an impassible

swamp the road itself being an artificial construction called "Corduroy," and animals running at large would mire anywhere outside the roadway itself.

The land on the southeast side of the town as far as the high land beyond was covered with scrub oak bushes that never attained a height greater than ten feet.

The town at first huddled and centered around the present locality of the Catholic Church. The old fort built by Francois Morgan de Vincenne in 1702, was located on the river between what is now the Catholic Church square and the river, and between Barnet and Vigo streets. The main entrance to the fort was on what is now Church street. The following diagram will give a better idea of the location of the old fort than any mere description.



Around these two places, the church and the fort as a nucleus, the town gathered and sprung up. The hotel of Mark Barnet, long the principal one, was on the river below

Barnet street, and that of Peter Jones, of a much later date, was also on the river below Broadway street where Jordan's elevator now stands. The space between these points, and extending a short distance back from the river, was all the space occupied by the town. On the northeast side of the town above Broadway street was located the Piankeshaw village and fields, and their Council House stood on the high gravel hill where the B. & O. S. W. R. R. freight depot now stands. This high hill was for many years, and as late as 1850, selected for raising the liberty pole and firing the cannon on the Fourth of July, which was always observed with the annual return of that day until Philander Fellows was killed there by a premature explosion.

There has been expressed by some of late years a doubt as to the location of the old fort. But the doubt thus expressed is not founded upon any authentic or reliable information. The location of the fort as given above is sustained by all authentic evidence and was always called by the old residents of the place *"The Old Block House Lot."* The plot of ground was only subdivided and sold in parcels as now held as late as 1839. Its location, as stated above, is consistent with all historic references to it, and the happening of known events connected with it, and there is no evidence of its location elsewhere.

According to the report of the State Geologist, Vincennes is situated in one of the richest coal districts in the west. The town itself is built upon coal deposits. The surface within the limits of the city has been pierced in several places and veins of coal have always been found, one layer below the first, and of a superior quality, which will in the future be worked with profit. A coal shaft has been sunk on the east outskirts of the city and superior coal is taken out and has been successfully and profitably operated for several years, and furnishes the cheapest coal used in the city.

CHAPTER III.

ENVIRONMENTS.

The country surrounding Vincennes gives the town a location unsurpassed for beauty. It was originally situated between two handsome prairies one above and the other below. The upper prairie extended about two miles from the limits of the town to Prairie Creek on the north. But this beautiful prairie has been encroached upon by the expansion of the city. Within the past two years it has been covered with manufacturing plants, business houses and dwellings and with the same process continued for a year or two longer it will present a city appearance. But the two prairies below the town remain as they were when the town was settled. They are beautiful and fertile prairies extending from the lower limits of the city some six miles below. The land was originally granted to the early French settlers by the commandants of the fort. These prairie lands as well as the lots granted in the village were designated upon small slips of paper and no record kept or made of any of the grants so far as known. The titles of the French settlers and claimants rested wholly upon actual possession and occupancy. And the transfer of lots in the village and prairie lands from one to another was made without documentary or written evidence of transfer, but simply by changing possession and occupancy in the same way personal property changed hands. This custom and transfer of real property without any written evidence of transfer gave the commissioners appointed by the United States to examine and report upon the claims of the French to lots and lands much trouble and compelled them to rely upon

verbal testimony in such cases. The lots in the village were not numbered, but only identified as adjoining lots of other persons. The same disposition of lands was made in the lower and Cathlinette prairies, which adjoin each other in the same imperfect manner and evidenced by descriptions on small slips of paper of which no record was made. The grants in the two prairies below Vincennes except the first granted the church, which contains four arpents, all contain two arpents in front by forty arpents in depth, French measure. A French arpent is a little less than an English acre. The grants in the lower prairie were thus divided in small slips so that each proprietor could have a frontage on the Wabash river. The grants in the prairies were not numbered and in transferring them long after deeds were in use, were simply described as bonded by lands of different owners. These prairie lands were afterwards surveyed by the United States government, after it acquired the territory, and numbered. The lower prairie containing by the survey 52 tracts and the Cathlinette prairie 18 tracts. But for years after the survey and numbering of the lands in the two prairies in all deeds, the same defective mode of conveyance was continued, causing much confusion. The lands in the two prairies below Vincennes were never enclosed by the French. They were cultivated by the owners in a common field. They all lived in the town, French fashion, and went out to the fields each day to cultivate the lands. A turning row was allowed for between each grant to enable the adjoining owners to cultivate their respective portions without trespassing on his neighbor in turning his team. These prairie lands and lots in the town in that part called "French Town," were originally, and as late as 1850, owned by the French people. But since that time they have changed hands and passed into the possession of other proprietors and but few lots or lands are now owned by the descendants of the original French proprietors.

The lots in the village and the lands in the neighborhood were all granted by the commandants of the Post commencing with Francois Morganne de Vincenne, the builder of the fort and first commandant, and all his successors. This is shown by the official report of the judges of the court, dated July 3d, 1790, to Winthrop Sargeant, the secretary of the Territory, in which they expressly state that Francois Morganne de Vincenne was the builder of the fort and its first commandant. This report can be found in the American state papersand is authentic, and settles beyond question who built the fort.

On the Illinois side of the Wabash adjoining Vincennes is the large and fertile "Allison" prairie extending from the river back about eight miles and up and down the river about fifteen miles. This prairie is very rich and produces abundant crops of all kinds and throws upon the Vincennes market as large a volume of produce almost as the County of Knox. It is thickly settled with an industrious population and adds much to the business and prosperity of Vincennes.

By an act of Congress passed March 5, 1791, there was appropriated a large tract of land adjoining Vincennes containing about 5,000 acres for a commons, for the use of all the inhabitants of Vincennes. This tract of land was not enclosed but was used by all the inhabitants of the town for purposes of pasturing their stock of all kinds. This use of the commons continued until the commons lands were sold by the borough trustees from and after 1825. The inhabitants of the town in 1816 joined in a petition to Congress for authority to sell the commons lands. In accordance with this petition Congress on April 20, 1818, passed an act transferring the commons lands to the trustees of the borough of Vincennes in trust, however, for the purpose of selling the same, and with the proceeds of sales to drain a pond on the east of the town and to pay any balance remaining to the Vincennes

University. The trustees of the borough by an ordinance passed September 28, 1818, accepted the trust and proceeded to execute the same. The commons lands were surveyed and divided in three divisions, A, B and C divisions. A was divided into 138 lots of 5 acres each, division B was divided into 204 lots of 10 acres each and division C was divided into 96 lots of twenty acres each. The lots in these three divisions were sold by the trustees of the borough at different times from and after 1825, and are now held by individual proprietors under the sales made by the trustees. But the pond adjoining the city was not drained by the borough trustees and no part of the proceeds were paid to the Vincennes University.

On the Illinois side of the Wabash River a chain of hills rise near the river and extend along its bank about three miles above and which add much to the scenery surrounding Vincennes. On the Indiana side of the river the picturesque hills on which Fort Knox was erected, rise from the water's edge and add much to the scenery in that locality. And these hills commencing at Fort Knox with slight interruptions extend continuously in a circle around Vincennes, terminating with Bunker Hill below the limits of the city. Upon these hills thus surrounding the city, on the east and south, beautiful sites for suburban residences are afforded which are being rapidly taken up by wealthy citizens and fine private residences erected thereon. And on these hills on the east is erected the Knox County Poor Asylum, a fine brick structure. On what is usually called the "Highlands," a splendid structure has been built, some three miles from the city, but in full view from all parts of it, for St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum.

Vincennes has four magnificent parks in close proximity to the city. "Harrison Park" is situated in the city limits in North Vincennes and is finely shaded and provided with walks and seats for the convenience of visitors. "Fairview Park,"

also well shaded and improved, near the limits of the city on the northeast. "Fairground Park," a little farther out, is also well shaded and has numerous buildings for the use and convenience of visitors. "Harmonic Park," a half mile still farther out, is also well shaded and improved. All these parks can be reached by the cars of the electric railroad. In the summer they are daily resorted to by all parties for picnics, recreation or pleasure and no better places can be found in the vicinity of any city for the purpose of amusement and pleasure and escaping from the heat of the city.

Vincennes is blessed with driveways in all directions around the city. And these afford any variety of route and scenery that may be desired. On one route the driver can pass over picturesque hills on a road well improved. On another he can pass over a road well graded and improved and as level as a floor. And on another he can pass over the most beautiful undulating country to be found anywhere. And on another, along a shaded road running by a running stream, which tends to moisten and cool the air. And on the other side of the Wabash he can drive either up or down the river on its banks, well shaded, and on a road as smooth as possible. And on any of the routes he may take he can drive for an evening airing a distance of ten miles through beautiful rural scenery and return to the city without passing twice over the same roadway.

CHAPTER IV.

Landmarks.

The first houses erected in Vincennes by the French settlers as well as those erected by their Creole descendants, were of timbers set upon end, thatched with straw and plastered with adobe. They were durable and lasting structures. Some such houses were known to have stood for upwards of a hundred years, and were still in good preservation when torn down to give place to more modern structures. They even resisted much longer the destroying ravages of fire than frame houses. One of them caught fire in the early part of the night between the years 1840 and 1850, and after burning all night, with the aid of the volunteer fire department, was consumed as the sun was casting its first rays over the eastern horizon. They were comfortable residences, being warm in winter and cool in summer. The first church erected in this way for St. Francis Xavier was used for church purposes for about eighty years, and then for a pastoral residence many years afterwards. None of the structures now remain in Vincennes.

The building occupied by the Territorial Government during the time Vincennes was the capitol of the Territory, was situated on the southwest side of Main street about midway between Second and Third streets. It was a two story frame building which about fifty years ago was removed to the southeast side of Upper Third street and located just below "Harrison" Park, where it yet stands in a good state of preservation.

The upper prairie survey, now in part occupied by "Harrison" Park, was covered over on the river front by many hand-

some brick residences. These remained as late as 1844, but have since entirely disappeared. The brick in these buildings was used in the construction of brick buildings in various parts of the city, and may be said to be the beginning of the erection of brick buildings in the city. The survey upon which these buildings stood on the failure of the Steam Mill Company was mortgaged to the United States for $100,000, and the title subject to the mortgage passed to Hall Neilson,

FIRST CAPITOL OF INDIANA TERRITORY.

of Washington City. The United States was subjected to a long litigation to establish its claim, which was not finally settled until 1880, when the government claim was finally quited. The Government then had the survey subdivided into lots and sold all the lots except that portion fronting on the river which was donated to the city for a public park, and is now known as "Harrison" Park.

The Harrison mansion is the oldest building in Vincennes, and is truly an ancient landmark. Many fictitious stories

connected with the old mansion have been circulated. One to the effect that there was a subterraneous passage leading from the mansion to the river as a means of escape in case of any hostile attack. No such passageway ever had any existence. The mansion itself was the best protection in case of danger of any place in the vicinity. Another to the effect that in the basement there was a dungeon in which slaves and

HARRISON MANSION.

others were confined. No dungeon was ever in the basement. These stories are akin to another that the huge boulder in the yard of the Rabb residence on Sixth street was the trystring place where Jefferson Davis and Jessie Taylor often met. Jessie Taylor left the place when an infant and never returned to it, and Jefferson Davis was never in Vincennes.

The mansion was the centre of attraction during its occupation by Gen. Harrison, and long afterwards. When the

general left in 1811, it was occupied by his son, John Cleves Symmes Harrison, who was as popular and as great a favorite with the people as his father. He was a cultured man. He married the daughter and only child of General Pike, who was equally cultured. The Vincennes Library was kept in the mansion during the time it was occupied by Symmes Harrison, and it continued to be the resort of the elite and cultured of the place. When he left, a public banquet was tendered him by the citizens of the place, at which he delivered an address. In part, he said: "I had fondly hoped to spend my life here, but cruel fate has decreed otherwise. But rest assured I can never forget the place or the many friends I leave behind me." He died at his father's home in North Bend on the Ohio River, October 30, 1830, of typhoid fever. A fine obituary notice of his death was published in the *Western Sun.*

After Symmes Harrison left, the mansion was occupied by Gen. James P. Drake, who was the receiver of public monies at this place, and kept his office there. Gen. Drake was one of the leading men of the State, and was afterwards elected Treasurer of State and removed to Indianapolis, where he died after 1850.

After Gen. Drake left the mansion was greatly neglected and fell into the hands of men who appropriated it to improper use. Gen. John Myers, who lived near on Second street, used it for storing his wheat and corn. And after the completion of the railroad to St. Louis it was occupied by James Gattan as a hotel. But thanks to its durable construction it exhibits no signs of misuse and is now as well preserved and substantial as any building in Vincennes.

It was at the Harrison mansion that the celebrated interview took place between Gen. Harrison and Chief Tecumseh. This interview is often referred to as a treaty. But it was no treaty and was not intended as such. It was called by Gen.

Harrison for the sole purpose of a friendly exchange of greetings. Gen. Harrison aware of the intrigues and machination of that celebrated chief requested him to come and visit him and that he would assure him of the friendly good will of the government towards the Indian tribes. He was requested to come unarmed and assured he would receive kind and courteous tratment. He agreed to come and did come. But instead of coming unarmed he came with 70 armed warriors, who encamped for the night on Prairie creek, near the present residence of Mr. Kelso. Gen. Harrison, aware of his thus coming with an armed force, prepared to meet him in an interview on the following day, August 15, 1810. For precaution in case of necessity Gen. Harrison summoned a number of his friends, who were well armed and occupied places in the hallway and circular parlor of the mansion This interview was held on the southwest front of the mansion in a grove of trees that surrounded it on that side Some conflicting statements have been made as to where this interview took place. But there should be no doubt about it. Robert G. McClure and Elihu Stout and many others who were part of Gen. Harrison's guard at the time all stated that this interview was held in the grove in front of the porch on the southwest side of the mansion. Gen. Harrison never left the porch and Tecumseh refused to take a seat on it, but stood in the grove. Gen. Harrison proceeded to address Tecumseh and his warriors and to assure them of the friendly feeling and good wishes of the government towards the Indians, and was willing to do all possible to promote their comfort and happiness and preserve peace. Tecumseh, who understood English imperfectly, here interrupted the general and told the interpreter to tell him he lied. The interpreter fearing if the exact language was given it would produce trouble modified it. But Tecumseh interrupted him and told him to state his exact language and to tell Gen. Harrison he lied when he said the

government was friendly to the Indians, but had cheated them and stolen their lands. When this was communicated to the general he terminated the interview and Tecumseh and his warriors withdrew. This porch and the grove of trees that surrounded it where this interview was held remained until 1840. It was here the great mass meeting and barbecue was held during the exciting political campaign of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too" in 1840. The meeting was composed of such numbers that four speakers of national reputation addressed it at the same time. The names of these four speakers were George G. Dunn of Bedford, Richard W. Thompson of Terre Haute, George H. Proffit of Petersburg and John Ewing of Vincennes.

The grounds around the Harrison mansion, extending to the river, were artistically laid out and filled with the choicest fruits and flowers. It was in fact a thing of beauty and a joy and remained in good preservation as late as 1855. The river front and for some distance back was enclosed with a picket fence of locust timbers firmly planted in the ground. The square in front of the mansion, on laying out Harrison's addition, was reserved for a park. The brick used in the construction of the mansion were manufactured by Samuel Thompson, who received for this work 400 acres of land about three miles above the city on the Terre Haute road.

The second brick building erected in Vincennes was the old seminary, which occupied four of the present city squares, bounded by Fourth and Sixth streets and Perry and Hart streets. This seminary was built in 1807 and was intended for use of common schools. It was sold by the school authorities in 1839 to Bishop Hailandiere, who started St. Gabriel's College there under the managment of the Udist fathers, who conducted the college until 1844, when they left the diocese and went to New Orleans. It was then converted into an orphan asylum and so continued until the orphans were

removed to Terre Haute. The Seminary was then turned over to the Sisters of Providence who established there St. Rose Academy. Francis Silas Chatard, the present bishop of the diocese, subdivided the square and opened Fifth and Seminary streets through it. The old Seminary was torn down in 1883 and the lots of the subdivision have all been sold except the part reserved for St. Rose Seminary, and are now held by private persons, and for the most part covered by fine residences.

As late as 1850 the survey out of which has been carved in part Judah's addition, was enclosed with a rail fence and used for farming purposes. The part of the town back of the Court House was unoccupied and used for a race track. That portion extending back from Sixth street was Marachall's field, and extended to the limits of the town and was cultivated in corn. This was divided into lots by Alvin W. Tracy, his executor, in 1855, and the lots sold. All that part of the city above Hart street was vacant except the Harrison mansion, the former residence of Judge Parke and that of Judge Law between them and the Judah square, afterwards called "the Baty place." In 1857 the Lutheran Church on Eighth street was built and was then the sole and solitary structure of any kind in that quarter.

So late as 1850 the buildings of the Steam Mill Company on the river front on what is now "Harrison" Park remained in a good state of preservation. The main structure of brick was 700 feet in length and two stories high. It was painted white. From the second story extended a log carriage-way to the river upon which logs floated down the river were carried by steam power into the mill. The Terre Haute State Road passed beneath this log-way. Immediately above the mill was a tall, brick malt house, and still farther up a large distillery. Around this mill as late as 1850 there were still standing many large two-story brick buildings for business

and residence purposes. The surroundings indicated that regular streets and paved sidewalks had been constructed. The houses were all finely finished. The Masonic Hall was in one of them and the walls were beautifully frescoed with the symbolical emblems of the order.

The building occupied by the Bank of Vincennes, and subsequently by act of the State Legislature in 1816 adopted as the State Bank of Indiana, and which bank gave rise to the celebrated *quo warranto* proceedings in the Circuit and Supreme Courts of the State, was located in a brick building on the east corner of First and Broadway streets.

The first building used for court purposes was of logs, situated on the north corner of Second and Broadway streets, and which after it was abandoned for such purposes was, while Fort Knox, was occupied by Federal troops used for hospital purposes for sick, wounded and disabled soldiers.

The second building used for court purposes was purchased from Robert Buntin, and was located on the west corner of Fourth and Buntin streets, and the county jail and estray pen were on the north corner of the same streets.

The present court square was purchased from Jacob Kuykendall, September 20, 1830, and has ever since been used for court and county purposes.

The old fort built by Francois Morgan de Vincenne in 1702 was built of logs and remained until 1820, when it was torn down and the logs used in its construction were used in building private houses in various parts of the city, and which houses were durable and remained until torn down. One of the houses built of logs from the old fort was situated on Lower Sixth street near the Catholic cemetery, and was only torn down a few years ago.

CHAPTER V.

THE OLD FORT.

The old fort on the Wabash at Vincennes owed its origin to considerations of military necessity. The French were aware as early as 1650 of the dangers that would in the future imperil their possessions on this continent and prudently endeavored to counteract them. Their colonies on the St. Lawrence river in the north, were widely separated from those on the Gulf of Mexico in the south. It was necessary for protection in a military point of view to connect them by a direct communication. This could not be done along the Atlantic coast as the English, their menacing and hostile rivals, occupied the intervening space in that quarter. It was only feasible by a line of forts through the unbroken and unexplored wilderness of the West. This connection was determined on as early as 1650 by the French ministry in control of affairs. But to execute it was a work requiring time. A survey had to be made and a practicable route adopted. It required years to explore this vast expanse of country through which the proposed connection was to be made. Exploring parties would have to grope their way through this extended stretch of wilderness, not only presenting natural obstacles, but filled with savage and in many cases hostile Indian tribes. The entire field stretching for thousands of miles had to be viewed in order to select the most feasible route and locate the forts in the proper places. The Mississippi river flowing almost directly north and south, was a natural highway affording easy ingress to the north from the Gulf of Mexico. The St. Lawrence river and the great chain of lakes connected with it were a natural highway opening the heart of the continent to ap-

roach from the Atlantic. It was determined to connect these two great natural highways. The St. Lawrence route was direct and continous from the Atlantic to Detroit river. But here its direction was broken and only sustained by a long detour to the north and then an equal distance to the south. To avoid this circuity and waste of time, it was determined to make the connection from Detroit to the Mississippi at the junction of the Ohio. The site of Vincennes was selected as the place to locate one of the forts. This route was practicable and afforded a water communication in a direct course

THE OLD FORT.

almost the entire distance. The waters of the Maumee, the St. Joseph, the St. Mary and Wabash rivers, presented natural facilities for communication only interrupted by a very narrow portage. This divide separating the waters of these rivers is so narrow and contracted that the crystal drops falling on the earth from their home in the sky, are at first puzzled to determine which course to take, whether to seek the cold and sparkling waters of the Atlantic through the great lakes and the St. Lawrence river or the warm and rosy bosom of the Gulf of Mexico through the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers. This route had been selected and determined

upon by the French government before 1700. It was supposed for many years that the "Ouabasche" was the river that emptied into the Mississippi River. Judge Law in his address of February 22, 1838, says: "It is a singular fact that the Wabash river was known and navigated by the whites long before the Ohio was known to exist." But this is not a singular fact and results as a natural sequence from the way the country was settled. This continent was first settled by the Europeans along the Atlantic coast, but the Allegheny mountains and the Blue Ridge were barriers forbidding the discovery and settlement of the Mississippi valley from that direction. This could only be done by way of the St. Lawrence and its connecting lakes. And this is the way it was explored and settled. The head waters of the Wabash river being nearer this route of travel from the north was necessarily discovered and navigated before the Ohio.

The old fort here was built in the fall of 1702. The first of the military forts in the North of the contemplated chain built by the French, was at Detroit in 1701. The next year Francois Morgan de Vincenne, according to the Quebec annals, a trusted officer in the service of the French, was sent with a military force to build three forts on the route selected for the chain of French forts to connect Canada and Louisiana. One at the junction of the St. Joseph and St. Mary rivers where the city of Fort Wayne now stands, two on the Wabash river, one about seven miles below the present city of Lafayette called *"Outanon."* The third at the site of Vincennes. These forts were certainly built in the order named as that would naturally follow, considering the point where the force engaged in their construction started to do the work which was Detroit.

It was the custom of the French in all their explorations and settlements on this continent to operate with two forces, the sword and the cross. The one represented the civil, and

the other the spiritual power. Accordingly the force that came here with de Vincenne in 1702 to build the fort, and thus lay the foundation of civilization in these parts, was accompanied by a French Jesuit missionary, who in the fall of 1702 celebrated the holy sacrifice of the mass at this place, in the open air, before the troops, the villagers and thousands of Indians. This mass was said near where the fort was to be built and near where the cathedral now stands. This act of the Jesuit missionary is recited in the Quebec annals and may be taken as the date when the site of Vincennes was consecrated and dedicated to civilization and christianity.

When the French came here in 1702 to build the fort they were welcomed and kindly received by the Indian tribes inhabiting the Wabash country about here. It is certain they gave them no active opposition but made them concessions of land in the village and surrounding country. It is stated in documents still preserved in Quebec that the Indians assisted the French in building both the church and the fort. And this is reasonable to believe from the known amicable relations that always existed between the French and the various Indian tribes, with whom they came in contact. The French and Indian tribes always lived in peace and concord. Judge Law says in his adress of February, 1838: "The French have always succeeded in conciliating the Indians and gaining their confidence and good will, while the Anglo Saxon has made but little progress in claiming their confidence and affection."

The country around Vincennes has been subject to the sovereignty of several different nationalities. It was first claimed, occupied and colonized by the French. It remained subject to this jurisdiction until the year 1763, when by the treaty of Paris of that year, it was ceded to Great Britain. It remained subject to that power until the capture of Kaskaskia and other French posts on the Mississippi river in

July, 1778, and the capture of the old fort here in February, 1779, by Virginia troops under command of George Rogers Clark. It then became a part of the commonwealth of old Virginia. It so remained until 1784, when that state ceded to the general government the territory northwest of the river Ohio, only stipulating in the act of cession that the territory thus ceded, should be divided into new states and admitted into the Union without slavery. And in accordance with this stipulation in the grant of Virginia to the general government, the five states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, have been carved out of the territory and admitted into the Union as free states.

The old fort here was called by many different names but never during all the time the French continued in possession, was it ever called by the name of "Sackville." It was never so called until the British acquired the Northwest Territory after the close of the old French war by the treaty of Paris. The British wishing to obliterate from the minds of the inhabitants all recollection of the French regime named the fort here "Sackville." This was intended as a compliment to Sir Thomas Sackville, earl of Dorset, an English scholar and statesman, who was a great favorite of the English government and who was employed in many important foreign missions. On the death of Lord Burleigh he succeeded him as Prime Minister of England, in which capacity he was regarded in sagacity and fidelity, as equal to his great predecessor, and in his honor the English named the fort here. But the object of the English in naming the fort failed of its purpose. The French did not approve or accept the name and never as long as the fort stood referred to it in any other way than the *"old fort,"* and would not have known what fort was referred to as *"Sackville."*

The town itself has been called by many different names. I have seen it stated that the name of the original village that

occupied this site was *"Chippecoke."* But I do not know upon what authority the statement is made. No reliable document calling the Indian village upon the Wabash at this place by that name has yet come under my observation. As to the different names the place has been called, Bishop Brute says: "Few places have received so many different appellations in the public documents either of old Virginia, of Congress or even of the territory where it would seem it would be best preserved; few had their orthography more wonderfully diversified. Beside the "Ancient Poste," "The Poste," "Au Poste," "Post Ouabache," "Post St. Francis Xavier," and finally "Poste Vincents."

The town was never called Vincennes until after 1736. It has been frequently stated that the place received its name from a place so called in the vicinity of Paris in France. But this is a mistake. The place derives its name from no city in France or elsewhere, but from the French officer who came here in 1702, and built the fort. And this name was given the place to perpetuate the memory and heroism of its founder. This was done in consequence of the tragic death and self sacrifice of de Vincenne in a disastrous battle with the Chickasaw Indians. In 1736 the French to force their way and complete their chain of forts, were at war with these Indians who inhabited the country midway between here and the fort at Vicksburg. It was determined by the French in order to complete the chain of forts, to attack them both from the north and south. Accordingly two armies were organized for the purpose. The force from the south was under the command of Bienville. The one from the north under the command of D'Artegette and Francois Morgan de Vincenne. It was intended the forces should form a conjunction before risking a decisive battle with the Chickasaws. But the forces from the south under Bienville were delayed and failed to form a junction. D'Artegette, unfortunately determined to

attack the Indians with the northern forces alone. He did so and was successful in several minor engagements and captured several of their smaller villages. When they approached the stronghold of the Chickasaws in the vicinity of the present city of Memphis, they halted before it in hopes they would be joined by the force from the south under Bienville. As long as that officer remained in the vicinity in a threatening attitude, the Indians and French remained quietly confronting each other. When Bienville retreated with his force and returned to Louisiana, the savages became emboldened and attacked the French, and defeated them in a bloody engagement. In consequence of this defeat, M. D'Artegette, de Vincenne and Father Antoninus Senat, then pastor of St. Francis Xavier church here, who accompanied the expedition as spiritual adviser, were all taken prisoners by the Indians. Father Senat and de Vincenne could have easily escaped with the remnant of the troops that retreated, and came back, and were entreated to do so. The retreat was conducted by M. Voisin, a young French officer, but both Father Senat and de Vincenne, with self sacrificing devotion of true heroes and martyrs, refused to join the retreating forces and thus save themselves, but leave the wounded and dying soldiers to the fury of the savages. They remained with the wounded soldiers and were both burned at the stake on Easter Sunday, 1736. This day has always been observed as a holiday in all Catholic churches throughout the world and was a fitting day for the introduction of two martyr saints into the glories of the church triumphant. And from the time the troops who survived and returned to the fort here, this place has been called Vincennes and will ever be called as long as the recollection of heroism and noble deeds will be appreciated among men. And thus it is clear Vincennes derives its name from an honorable source in perpetuation and remembrance of its founder. On this subject, Bishop Brute, says: "Al-

though we find no deliberation, no special act, no express monument for attaching the name of de Vincenne to the Post, we see how effectually that honorable gratitude gave his name to it."

Of the three forts built by Francois Morgan de Vincenne in 1702, the one at this place was destined to endure the longest and become of historic importance. The one built at the junction of the St. Mary's and St. Joseph's rivers was destroyed by the Indians and the remains seen and described by Gen. Wayne in 1794. The one called Outanon, on the Wabash, was destroyed by the Indians in 1765. But the old fort built here remained until torn down after 1816.

CHAPTER VI.

FRENCH CUSTOMS.

Vincennes was originally settled by the French, as already stated. When they came here and settled they found the country filled with various Indian tribes living together in peace and amity. These tribes were Delawares, Kickapoos, Mascontens, Miamis, Shawnees, Pottawatomies and Piankeshaws. This place, from its location on high ground when the whole surrounding country was subject to overflow, made the site of Vincennes a favorite place of resort and abode for the Indian tribes. When the French came here they associated and affiliated with them on terms of equality. The marriages between the French and the Indian races were frequent. From this admixture of blood a dual race was produced called *"Creoles."* This race was for many years the dominant race about here in both town and country, and could, as late as 1855, control all elections in Knox county. The Creole French occupied almost exclusively all that part of town below Main street, and the Lower and Cathilinette prairies. Their Indian ancestry was easily discernible in their personal appearance with high cheek bones and straight, black hair. They stood erect and held their head high and walked with long strides, and carried their persons upright and as straight as an arrow. Many of the Creoles were here until long after 1850. But very few specimens are left now surviving in the town or country.

This mixed stock embodied in combination the qualities of the two races or sources of derivation. They inherited all the virtues as well as the vices of the French and Indian in combination. From the French vivacity and good nature, and

from the Indian wild, roving and irascible traits of character. The result was that the Creole population was of rather a wild and intractable disposition, and mingled with it a love of ease and pleasure. Labor was distasteful and only performed as a matter of necessity to provide for the wants of life and not from any desire to accumulate worldly goods and possessions. Hunting, fishing and dancing and all manner of sports and amusements were practiced. The same social state was observable here during the Creole supremacy as exists today in the French Arcadian settlements of Louisiana back of the Mississippi River. The dance was a favorite pastime, and the sound of the fiddle and the tread of feet to its strains were more frequently heard than that of the loom or the anvil. This has been so within the memory of men still living who well remember the joyous, free and easy times when Mitchel Richardville was king of the ball room and led the dance with the strains of his fiddle, and the stamp of his right foot at one and the same time making as much noise with the one as the other.

A favorite dance with the French was the king ball on New Year's night. On this occasion the young man chosen as king for the ball had the privilege of selecting his queen for the dance and during the evening. The king and queen were the most important persons at the ball and enjoyed themselves to their heart's content. The next day the king was expected, by custom, to present his queen with a new dress.

Chicken fighting and horse racing were also resorted to, and were favorite diversions among the Creole French, and all manner of means devised by them to pass away the time and enjoy life without work.

The Creoles were a very sociable and hospitable people. On Easter Sunday it was an invariable custom among them to visit their neighbors and acquaintances and make presents of colored eggs. On Christmas day it was expected that all

among them, both young and old, male and female, should exchange presents with their friends and acquaintances. On New Year's day it was general for them to exchange visits from house to house, and every one was welcome to any house and was expected to partake of the many good things provided for the occasion.

Fighting was common among them and all the Creole men were boastful of their personal prowess. But these fights were all in old fashioned style with such arms only as nature provided. Up to 1844 the elections were attended in the town by all the voters and they were not confined to the townships in which they resided. The great volume of the vote was cast here at the county seat. Election day was a great event, and the voters generally flocked to the county seat to vote and see the sights usual on such occasions. It was the time set apart by custom to settle personal disputes by trial, by battle and many difficulties were adjusted that way on election day. The result was that thousands flocked here on election day to witness these personal encounters. Persons yet living in Vincennes can remember that on election day as many as a dozen fights would take place one after the other, and when one would cry, "Hold, enough!" hostilities would instantly cease and the difficulty was settled and at rest. The main battle ground was the intersection of Main and Third streets, and thousands there assembled to witness these pugilistic exercises, and elevated places of observation were at a premium.

The only vehicles to be seen on the streets of Vincennes as late as 1845 were French carts called "*calesche.*" One of them would be a curiosity now. They were creations of necessity, as the old Creole French in their isolated condition here were cut off in a manner from the outside world. These French carts were of home made manufacture. They were two-wheeled vehicles with shafts for only one horse. They were entirely constructed of wood without the use of any metal

whatever. They were used for hauling wood and produce of every kind, and for every kind of farm work. They were the only vehicle provided for the use of the family either male or female. In these carts, the body of which was in size and shape very similar to a large dry goods box, an entire Creole family, man, wife and children, would huddle together and jostle along going to church or on a visit, the horse maintaining a brisk trot, and the heads of the household bobbing up and down at a lively rate.

These Creole customs and practices were legitimate fruits of the blending of the French and Indian races. They were all professed Catholics in religion, but paid little attention to the precepts of the church. They, as a general rule, only entered the church on three occasions during life. First, when baptised; then when married, and lastly when carried there to have the last rites of the church performed over their dead bodies. When Father Flaget, afterwards first bishop of Bardstown, Ky., came here as resident pastor, December 21, 1792, he tried to curb the Creole population and reform their habits and enforce conformity to church discipline. He condemned their wild and roving habits and frivolous amusements as being contrary to the teachings of the church. He encouraged agriculture and the mechanic arts and started a free industrial school to instill into their minds habits of industry. He urged them to see that their children attended religious schools where they would form habits of honor, piety and virtue and become an honor to their name and a consolation to their grey hairs. He exhorted them to fence about their homes so they would be structures of Christian virtue. He exhorted them to be faithful Catholics and their country would be proud of them as models of religious enlightenment and patriotism. He accomplished much good, but was recalled before he had finished his good work.

It is a singular fact that both Indians and negro slaves

were held here among the Creoles, as well as other settlers from Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky long after the passage of the ordinance of 1787 and the state constitution of 1816. In 1830 the trustees of the Borough directed the Marshal to take a census of the population. He did so, and his official return to the Trustees shows the following result: White males, 768; white females, 639; free black males, 63; free black females, 63; slave males, 12; slave females, 20; total population, 1,565.

Vincennes was for a long time after it was founded an outpost in the wilderness. It had no communication with the colonies on the Atlantic and was to them a *"terra incognita."* But the formation of the Territorial Government in 1800 changed all this. When the first comers after that arrived here they found a French settlement speaking that language exclusively, and no more than a dozen English speaking people in the place. The Creole population never learned to speak the English language. When the Territorial Government was formed and Vincennes named as the capital, the seaboard States poured their overflow population composed of a restless, battling swarm of homeseekers through the Alleghenies out upon the rich prairies of the west. All these adventurous men directed their steps to Vincennes as a common mecca. As the curtain rose upon the advancing Saxon and Celt they beheld with awe the mystery of a new civilization. The native Indian and Latin races mingled in fraternal accord on the banks of the Wabash. The town was a marvel, a page torn from some book of enchantment. A fragment of Europe suddenly dropped in his path could scarce have awakened more astonishment. He beheld long lines of white houses thatched with straw and covered with adobe, each with its arcade festooned with trailing vines and half hidden in season under the bloom of peach, cherry and apple trees. In the centre the frowning walls of a citadel overlooking a belfried church, and a necropolis entombing a century's dead.

Its streets thronged with brightly dressed, dark-eyed women and well-dressed men chatting in a strange tongue. These people were all seekers after pleasure and social enjoyment, and were not wedded to the acquisition of wealth. He mingled with them in their balls and festive days. In the church the altar blazing with lights before which robed priests chanted Latin prayers and intoned the music of the mass. With such scenes were the first adventurers of the English speaking race confronted on their arrival among the ancient inhabitants of Vincennes. But what became of this civilization? Where are the lords of the forest who reigned with unbounded sway over these fertile regions? Where the Delawares, the Kickapoos, the Miamis, the Shawees, the Pottawatomies; nay! even the half civilized Piankeshaws who with their village occupied one-half the town? Their bows are broken, their council fires extinguished, the graves of their fathers deserted. The white man came, civilization attended him, and desolation and death followed in his train. And what became of the patriarchs of the Post, the gay, the polite, the lively and the hospitable French and Canadians who settled it? The dance has ceased, the sound of the viol is no longer heard. The Anglo-Saxon has usurped the place of the descendants of St. Louis. How many French families whose members were formerly almost as numerous as the leaves of the forest are now represented by any living members? Where are the Busserons, the Lasselles, the Generoms, the Andres, the Burdalows, the Cardinals, the Bazadous, the Amlins, the Richardvilles, the Laderouts, the Racines? They are all gone. This result is attributable in part to the frequent intermarriage of blood relations, and the impoverishment of the stock. In part from having come in contact with the Anglo-Saxon, that strong and aggressive blood race that absorbs, eliminates, appropriates, enslaves or extinguishes all races that come into its way, and the result is the stronger has supplanted the weaker.

CHAPTER VII.

Courts.

As long as the French held possession of the Northwest Territory there were no courts of justice at Vincennes or anywhere else in the French settlements, so far as known. All matters of dispute were decided by the various commandants of the Post, who were de Vincennes, St. Auge, LeGrand and Legras. All concessions of land to the inhabitants were made by them on little slips of paper. Of all these transactions no record was ever made so far as known, and the slips of paper evidencing concessions of land were not recorded. The transfers of land were made by actual transfer of possession as personal property was transferred. This was much the same as the old livery of seizure in English practice. This manner of transferring lands without record or deed gave the United States commissioners appointed to adjust French grants much trouble, as these old French grants had to be ascertained and adjusted by parole testimony.

After the English acquired the territory in 1763 they only held it until 1779, a period of nineteen years, and nothing was done by them in the matter of establishing civil government in the Northwest Territory.

When Virginia acquired the territory in 1779 by her troops under George Rogers Clark, in the spring of that year an act was passed by the Virginia Legislature for the government of the territory thus acquired. John Todd was appointed "*Lieutenant of the Country and Commander-in-Chief.*" He immediately came to Vincennes and issued a proclamation announcing his power and purposes. In June, 1779, he organized "*A Court for the District of Post Vincennes.*" This

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court possessed both civil and criminal jurisdiction and was composed of the following judges: F. Busseron, L. E. Doline, Pierre Gamelin and Pierre Queray. This court continued in existence until it was superseded by the courts of the United States, appointed under the ordinance of 1787.

When the United States acquired the territory steps were taken by Congress to establish civil government for the territory. On the 13th of July, 1787, an act of Congress was passed organizing the *"Territory Northwest of the River Ohio."* Gen. Arthur St. Clair was appointed the first governor of the territory. In January, 1790, he sent Wilthrop Sargeant, secretary of the territory, to Post Vincennes to organize the county. Sargeant accordingly came to Vincennes and did this in the summer of 1790, and named the county he organized *"Knox,"* after Gen. Henry Knox, the secretary of war. The court established by him for Knox county was called *"General Quarter Sessions of the Peace."* It held its first session at the house of John Small, who was appointed sheriff on July 4, 1790. There were present at this session as judges, Antoine Gamelin, Paul Gamelin, Francois Busseron, James Johnson and Luke Decker. Samuel Baird was appointed clerk of this court. It continued until Indiana Territory was organized in 1800.

There was a court of *"Oyer and Terminer, and General Jail Delivery and Nisi Prius"* held at Vincennes in October, 1795, before John Cleves Symmes, senior judge of the Territory Northwest of the Ohio. But little business was done at this session, and was the only term of said court ever held here of which there is any record.

When Indiana Territory was organized, Henry Vanderburg, William Clark and John Griffin were appointed the first Federal judges of the Territory. Under the Federal Government there were two Courts that exercised jurisdiction in this county. One was called the *"General Court,"* and exercised

jurisdiction throughout the territory. The other was called *"Common Pleas,"* and its jurisdiction was limited to the several counties and possessed jurisdiction in probate matters. Henry Hurst was clerk of both these courts from their organization until they were superseded by the courts organized by the State Government in 1816.

Since the organization of the State Government probate matters have been transacted by different courts. The first one in point of time was the *"Court of Probate."* The following judges presided in this court in the order named: William Caruthers, William R. McCall, John Ewing, John B. Drennon, Henry Ruble, Mark Barnett, William L. Coleman, William Polke, John Moore and Richard P. Price. This court was adjourned *sine die* Saturday, August 15, 1829.

The above court was succeeded by the *"Probate Court,"* which was organized September 7, 1829. The following persons presided as judges in this court in the order named: William Polke, George W. Ewing, Abner T. Ellis, Robert N. Carnan, George R. Gibson, Robert P. McConnghey, John H. Harrison, James Thorne and Clark Willis. This court was in 1852 abolished by act of the Legislature.

The Probate Court was succeeded by the *"Court of Common Pleas."* This court was organized in this county January 3, 1853. This was not strictly speaking a county court. It was called a district court and embraced several counties, presided over by the same judge. This district, in which Knox county was situated, was composed of the counties of Knox, Daviess, Martin and Pike. This court had jurisdiction of all probate matters and civil cases when the amount in controversy did not exceed one thousand dollars, but not in cases of slander or where the title to real estate was involved, and in criminal cases less than felony. The following persons presided as judges in this court in this county in the order named: Richard A. Clements, James C. Denny, Rich-

ard A. Clements, Jr., William R. Gardner and James T. Pierce. This court was abolished by an act of the Legislature in 1873, and its jurisdiction and business was transferred to the Circuit Court.

The most important court in dignity and jurisdiction in the county has ever been the Circuit Court. It has always possessed general common law and equity powers in all cases, both civil and criminal. It was first created by an act of the Territorial Legislature passed at Corydon in 1814. The first court met in this county May 9, 1814, but no business was transacted, as only the clerk and sheriff were present, but no president judge. The same thing occurred at the following August term, as no president judge appeared. The first term of this court at which any business was transacted was held March 16, 1815, when Isaac Blackford appeared as the president judge, and Daniel Sullivan and James B. McCall as associate judges. It was for many years that in this court in addition to the president judge, who was to be a lawyer, there were two associate judges who were not necessarily required to be lawyers. The president judges in this court have been in the order named: Isaac Blackford, David Raymond, William Prince, Thomas H. Blake, General W. Johnson, Jonathan Doty, Jacob Call, John R. Porter, John Law, General W. Johnson, Amory Kinney, Elisha M. Huntington, William P. Bryant, John Law, Samuel B. Gookins, Delano R. Eccles, Alvin P. Hovey, William E. Niblack, Ballard Smith, Michael F. Burke, James C. Denny, John Baker, Newton F. Malott, George W. Shaw, and Orlando H. Cobb, the present incumbent.

CHAPTER VIII.

MUNICIPAL.

Vincennes enjoys the unique distinction as having been known and recognized by name long before she was legally born. It was frequently mentioned as "Borough of Vincennes" in many official documents and reports and acts of legislatures before any specific act incorporating it was ever passed. It was referred to as the "Borough of Vincennes" in the act of the Territorial Legislature incorporating the "Vincennes University," which was passed in 1806. The first act incorporating Vincennes was passed by the Territorial Legislature in 1807. By this act the following persons were created its first board of trustees: Robert Buntin, William Bullitt, Charles Smith, Hyacinthe Lasselle, Joshua Bend, Henry Hurst, Jacob Kuykendall, Touissant Dubois and Peter Jones. The act declared the territory included within the following boundaries to be the limits of the borough: Hart street on the northeast, the church lands on the southwest, the Wabash river on the northwest and Eleventh street on the southeast. These boundaries continued to be the limits of the old borough until the act of the state legislature passed January 3, 1817, annexed to it "Harrison's Addition." The limits of the borough thus extended, continued to be its limits during the life of the borough organization. The subsequent annexations to include the present limits of the city have all been the work of the city organization.

A number of acts were afterwards passed by the state legislature amendatory in character, but the most important one was the act passed February 11, 1838. This borough organi-

zation remained in operation until it was succeeded by the present city organization in 1856.

The old Borough of Vincennes during its long continued existence called into her service many trustworthy men. Among these I will name the following who filled various positions of trust and honor under the old borough of Vincennes: Jacob D. Early, John Moore, General W. Johnson, Charles H. Tillinghast, Valentine I. Bradley, Andrew Gardner, Martin Robinson, Abner T. Ellis, George R. C. Sullivan, Owen Reily, John Ewing, John Collins, Elihu Stout, Samuel Hill, Henry D. Wheeler, J. C. S. Harrison and Jeremiah Donovan.

The last meeting of the board of trustees under the old borough organization, was held on the 7th day of February, 1856.

An election was held on the 25th day of January, 1856, to decide the question whether to abandon the old borough organization and incorporate under the general law of the state providing for the incorporation of cities. This election called out but a light vote. The whole number of votes cast was only 255 of which 181 were in favor and 74 against the adoption, being an affirmative majority of 107 votes in favor of the adoption of the general law of the state for the incorporation of cities. This majority was sufficient, however, to destroy the borough organization and that historical old borough ceased to exist and the new born city of Vincennes succeeded to its powers and franchises.

The following persons have filled the office of Mayor of Vincennes in the order named: John Moore, James Dick, William A. Jones, Richard J. McKenney, Henry V. Somes, George E. Greene, William B. Robinson, James S. Pritchett, William H. Beeson, William B. Searight, James H. Shouse, John Wilhelm, Francis Murphy, Oliver G. Miller and George E. Greene.

The following persons have filled the office of clerk: James S. Mayes, John Ewing, Albert Montgomery, Charles G. Mathesie, George G. Turney, Emil Grill, Charles W. Eastham, Charles A. Cripps, Cyrus M. Allen, George E. Greene and Charles Laugel.

The following have been treasurer: Andrew Armstrong, Isaac N. Eastham, Gerhard H. Duesterberg, Joseph Bey, Charles W. Jones, Peter R. McCarthy, Henry B. Duesterberg, Charles G. Mathesie, Frank H. Hoffman and Thomas Eastham.

CHAPTER IX.

Police.

For a century after the town was founded it was without any incorporation or police guardianship. During all that time the inhabitants were honest and everybody attended to his own business and suffered his neighbor to do the same. The distinction between *meum* and *tuum* was strictly observed. In fact the doors of the houses were without locks or bars of any kind. This was the condition of affairs during the French supremacy. With the influx of strangers from the Atlantic States came the necessity for civil organization and police protection. Accordingly, in 1807, the town was incorporated for the first time as a borough. For many years after this the police protection of the town was satisfactorily performed by the marshal alone. And for a long time afterwards, with the assistance of a single deputy. This continued to be the case during the life of the borough organization. The following persons filled the office of marshal during this period: Jeremiah Donovan, Thomas J. Beeler, Benjamin F. Thorne and A. L. Cornoyer. After the organization of the city government the common council, September 1, 1871, passed an ordinance organizing a police force to assist the marshal in keeping order and preserving the peace. The members of the police force were to be elected by the city council and were subject to its control, and could be removed by the council. This police force was sufficient for the purpose intended. The following persons filled the office of city marshal under the city organization: Emanuel Meisenhelter, John J. Worman, Jeremiah Donovan, Jacob Metzger, John A. Pulliam, William Sachs, John T. McBride, Louis Hahn, Frank Johnson, George M. White and Thomas Robertson.

The General Assembly at the session of 1901 amended the

act providing for a metropolitan police so as to include Vincennes within the provisions of that law. This law had already been in force as to many cities of the State for many years. But its provisions only included such cities as had a larger population than Vincennes. The amendment of 1901 made the law applicable to cities having a population as large as Vincennes. Under the metropolitan system the governor of the State is authorized to appoint three police commissioners in cities within its operation, only requiring him to select members so far as possible from the two leading political parties. This restriction on the appointing power of the governor insures a non-partisan board of police commissioners. The governor under this act appointed as the first board of police commissioners for Vincennes, Schuyler C. Beard, Daniel L. Bonner and Dexter Gardner. These appointees are all good and competent men and their appointment gave general satisfaction to the people of the city. These police commissioners are empowered to make rules for the government of the police force, to fix the number of the force and their compensation, and can remove the members for cause when they see proper. The compensation of the commissioners is not fixed by themselves, but by the governor. This police system will in all probability give the city better police protection than the old. This, for the reason that there is no divided responsibility in the appointment of the commissioners or members of the force. The responsibility for the character and qualifications of the police commissioners rests individually with the governor, and his reputation in the matter is directly and solely at stake and will cause him on that account to appoint qualified and worthy men without bias or prejudice. The same responsibility rests upon the commissioners in the appointment of members of the police force, and will operate upon them in the appointments they make, and thus a competent and trustworthy police force will al-

ways be assured. For these reasons, in all probability the metropolitan police system will afford the city as good protection as possible.

When this system first went into operation here there was manifested in some quarters opposition to it. But this opposition and criticism was premature and not well founded. The system has not yet been given a fair trial, and its workings are not yet known. This opposition was in part due to personal considerations, but mainly to partisan prejudice on account of its being supposed to be a Republican measure. But this view is erroneous. It is not a Republican measure, but was originally introduced as a Democratic measure and supported by such men as Thomas A. Hendricks, Joseph E. McDonald, William H. English, Isaac P. Gray and Richard J. Bright. But this partisan view should not be entertained. The system should be given a fair trial, and it will be developed that it is a better system than the old.

CHAPTER X.

NEWSPAPERS.

Vincennes almost from the organization of the territory, has been liberally supplied with newspapers. The establishment of a newspaper in a place is an important era in its history. The press is the great conduit through which intelligence is generally disseminated among the masses. It brings communities in close contact with each other and tends in an eminent degree to enlighten, refine and elevate the character of the masses generally.

The first newspaper established in Vincennes, and in fact in the whole territory, now comprising the State of Indiana, was the Western Sun, by Elihu Stout. The first number of this paper was issued on July 4th, 1804. It required much labor and endurance to establish this paper. The material for the purpose had to be procured in Kentucky and transported here on pack horses. There were no roads leading from Vincennes to the East at that time. Mr. Stout was compelled to take three horses on his trip to Kentucky to procure material and travel through the wilderness. One of the horses was for himself to ride and the other two for the purpose of carrying the material. But he persevered and issued his first number July 4, 1804. The publication was regularly continued for nearly two years, when the office was destroyed by fire. But not discouraged, he procured from Kentucky other material, and on the 4th of July, 1807, issued the first number of his resurrected paper. He continued its publication with regularity until November, 1845, when he was appointed Postmaster at Vincennes, and sold the paper to John R.

Jones. During the time Mr. Stout published the paper he took in partnership many different persons who soon became discouraged and fell by the wayside. The names of these persons it is not necessary to state. After he sold the paper to Jones, it was neglected and for a time its publication suspended. During this time attempts were made to start various papers under different names, but they were all short lived, and soon passed away and were forgotten. Among the number may be mentioned: "Jones' Vincennes Sentinel," "The Indiana Patriot," "The Vincennes Courant," "The Patriot and Courant." Finally George E. Greene in 1856, purchased the paper and re-issued it under its old name, "Western Sun." From the time he took possession, the paper has been a success, financially and politically, and has become a leading Democratic paper in Southern Indiana. Mr. Greene commenced the publication of a semi-weekly when he took charge and Mr. Purcell, the present proprietor, in 1879 commenced the publication of a daily. Mr. Greene died in 1870 and the paper was purchased by Gen. Reuben C. Kise. He soon died and the paper was purchased by Dr. Alfred Patton. He subsequently sold the establishment to Andrew J. Thomas & Co. It passed from them to the possession of Royal E. Purcell, the present proprietor.

In the early days of the territory many different newspapers were attempted to be started here by Samuel Hill, John Ewing and Mr. Osborn, but all these ventures were failures, and the papers they started soon passed out of existence.

In 1816 the Indiana Sentinel was started by N. Blackman, for Willis Fellows, and was published in a brick building opposite the Vincennes steam mill in the upper part of the city, now occupied by "Harrison Park." This paper was started in the interest of the steam mill company and to ad-

vance and advertise its business. The publication of the paper was continued until the failure of the steam mill company some four or five years after, when its publication ceased.

In 1808 a paper was started here in the interest of Jonathan Jennings, who was a candidate for Territorial Delegate to Congress against Thomas Randolph, who was then District Attorney of the United States for the Indiana territory. Jennings was strongly opposed to the introduction of slavery in the territory and he claimed that Randolph was at heart in favor of its introduction. To advance his political interests, a paper was started here which took strong ground against the introduction of slavery in the territory and warmly advocated the election of Jennings. But this venture, like all its predecessors, was short lived and ceased to exist with the occasion that called it forth.

The first paper that can be said to have been founded here in opposition to the Sun was the Vincennes Gazette, started by Richard Y. Caddington in 1830. This paper was ably edited and became the organ of the Whig party, and was a success. Mr. Caddington continued its publication until 1855. The paper was then sold to Harvey Mason & Co., who successfully continued its publication until May 28, 1859, when it became the property of Dr. H. M. Smith and M. P. Gee. In 1861 William Denny became proprietor and continued its publication until 1862, when Cyrus M. Allen and Dr. H. M. Smith became owners. In a few months Charles I. Williams became proprietor and Cyrus M. Allen continued as editor. In May, 1863, John M. Wilson became proprietor with T. C. Shuber as editor. In January, 1864, William H. Jackson succeeded Shuber as editor. In a few months it passed into the hands of William H. Jackson and John M. Griffin. On October 14, 1865, John M. Griffin became sole

proprietor and the old Vincennes Gazette soon ceased to exist.

On the 24th February, 1854, William H. Jackson and James G. Hutchinson commenced the publication of the "News of the Day." This was a paper devoted to the cause of the Know Nothing party and being located in a community hostile to that party, it soon expired a natural death for want of patronage.

The "Old Post Union" was started by James G. Hutchinson, March 7, 1862. This paper survived but a very short time, and was succeeeded by the "Vincennes Times," the publication of which was commenced by R. Y. Caddington and William H. Jackson. Mr. Jackson retired from the paper and was succeeded by Gen. Lazarus Noble, December 6, 1873. The paper was sold to Malachi Krebs, October 17, 1875, but Krebs failed to pay the purchase money and the paper passed to James J. Mayes, John Mallet and A. V. Crotts. Mr. Crotts ceased his connection with the paper in 1879 and it soon after ceased to exist.

The "Vincennes Commercial" was established by S. F. Horrall, A. Horrall and N. Horrall, March 13, 1877, under the firm name of S. F. Horrall & Sons. This paper was devoted to the interests of the Republican party and was continued by its founders until February 15, 1881, when it passed into the hands of the "Commercial Company," with T. H. Adams as editor. The paper was subsequently purchased by Mr. Adams, who became the sole proprietor and editor, and has continued its publication until the present time. In addition to a weekly a daily edition has been successfully and profitably issued. It is ably conducted and edited and claims to be the organ of the Republican party in this county.

The "Vincennes News" was established by W. W. Bailey & Co. with Warren Worth Bailey as editor in 1877. This was

a weekly paper and was edited with marked ability. It claimed to be a Democratic paper, but was erratic in its course, and was never recognized as the organ of the Democratic party. It was generally thought to be a political guerilla. It advocated the Henry George theory of a single tax and for want of sufficient patronage ceased to exist about 1884.

I must not omit to notice the "Vincennes Joker and Jocular Jingler," a small newspaper started here in 1846, in the interest of merriment and good feeling. It was a spicy little sheet and was devoted to personal criticism of a harmless nature. It was ably edited by D. C. Robinson and William H. Jackson, and was very popular as long as published, but was short lived and soon disappeared.

The "National Era" was founded here by D. W. and A. L. Harbison, devoted to the principles of the Populist party. But with the passing of that party it lost its prestige although its publication is still continued.

The "Knox County Democrat" was started by Allen Campbell. It was originally started in Monroe City, but was subsequently removed to this place and its publication continued here for several years by Mr. Campbell. It was a weekly paper and strongly advocated the free coinage of silver. Mr. Campbell sold the paper to Frank Signor and the paper was published by him for some time. He finally sold it to its present proprietors, Chancellor and Comfort. Its publication is still continued and it is Democratic in politics.

The "Ladies' Home Ideal" is a monthly periodical published by Thomas H. Adams. It was started a few years ago and its publication is still continued. It is especially designed to advertise and promote the sale of patent medicines, of which Mr. Adams is proprietor.

The "Vincennes Capital" is the last newspaper venture in Vincennes. It has rapidly worked its way to the front and

although young in years, is now regarded as the peer of any paper published in Vincennes. It is enterprising and strives to give its patrons the latest news and in this is successful. It is always alive to the best interests of Vincennes and is ever planning and suggesting means to advance the city and help build it up. It publishes both a weekly and daily edition. It is ably edited and is strongly in the interest of Republican principles and men.

CHAPTER XI.

Antiquities.

Vincennes is rich in material of historic interest. There centre around her memories of a past extending beyond the recollections of the living, and reaching farther and farther backward till they gradually fade away and are lost and shrouded in the mists of conjecture. The date when the site of Vincennes was first visited by civilized man cannot be determined with precision at this time, and probably never can be. But it was in all probability as early as the year 1660. This is not mere speculation, but can be reasoned out as a necessary sequitur by comparison with the happening of well known and authentic occurrences. Bancroft, in his history of the United States, says, "That no bay, no lake, no river, no mountain in all the vast expanse of this continent has ever yet been visited by any explorer but that a Jesuit missionary had been there before him." It is a well known and admitted fact that the early Jesuit missionaries in the Northwest were actuated by no love of gain, but for the sole purpose of discovery and the conversion of the Indian tribes to Christianity. To accomplish this they traversed the vast wilderness of the Northwest, visiting the Indians in their villages throughout the vast country bordering on the great lakes, the Mississippi, the Illinois and the Wabash Rivers. Jacques Marquette was one of the most celebrated and intrepid of these missionaries. He visited all parts of the Northwest. He circumnavigated Lake Superior, the largest and most westerly of the great lakes, and with Joliet sailed down the Mississippi river and is well known to have been in the Wabash country. Bishop Brute in his writings, says, "That the St. Joseph portage was

used by Father Marquette long before La Salle and Hennepin passed through that portage." He further says that "Father Marquette and Allonez passed through that portage on their way to the 'Ouachasche' country soon after 1660. While there is no positive evidence that Father Marquette was ever at the site of Vincennes, yet reasoning by the inductive process we are bound to conclude he was here as early as 1660. It would be unreasonable to suppose that this indefatigable worker for the conversion of the Indians would fail to visit so important a point in the Wabash Valley as this when he

OLD CATHOLIC CHURCH.

was known to be in its vicinity. This site was a favorite resort for all the Indian tribes on both sides of the Wabash River. It was a safe place of abode for them in consequence of its high situation and the conditions then existing in this part of the surrounding country. From the earliest times until in very recent years the entire country on both sides of the Wabash River were covered with water many feet deep twice during each year during the January and June freshets. During these flood seasons the country for hundreds of miles in all directions from the site of Vincennes was covered with

water many feet deep and offered no suitable abiding place for the Indians. As late as 1846 the Wabash and Embarras Rivers annually overflowed their banks and united their waters, covering the intervening space of eight miles to a depth of seven or eight feet. And in the same way by overflow the White River united its waters with the Wabash to the east to a like depth. In 1846 the steamboat Daniel Boone was carried by the force of the overflow current a short distance above Vincennes from the channel of the Wabash River out into the prairie for over a mile, and was only returned to the river with difficulty. And in the same year the United States mail was carried from Vincennes over the overflowed prairies on the Illinois side to the high ground on the Embarras River at Lawrenceville. And this was not an unusual or singular occurrence, but happened frequently, until the country was protected by levies. These conditions made the site of Vincennes a resort and place of abode for the Indians, as it was always on high ground above the reach of any flood. It was here they had their permanent village and fields which were still visible when the white settlers came to the place. It was here they had their council houses and where all the surrounding tribes assembled many times during the year when they returned from the chase or forage. And such a place, where so many of the Indians could be easily found, it is contrary to reason to suppose that such a zealous missionary as Father Marquette would fail to visit when he was in the Wabash country.

I wish to locate Father Marquette at the site of Vincennes, as it will fix the probable date of his visit. It is well known that he left the Jesuit mission at Kaskaskia a sick and worn-out man in consequence of his labors and exposure, to return to St. Ignace, a few days after Easter, 1675. On this, his final trip, he travelled by way of the St. Joseph portage. He died May 18, 1675, ascending the eastern shore of Lake Mich-

igan, and was buried in the sands of the lake shore before he reached his destination. Therefore he must have visited the site of Vincennes, if at all, prior to 1675, and in all probability about 1660. I have endeavored to locate Father Marquette here, as he is a well-known historic character.

However it may be whether Father Marquette was ever at the site of Vincennes, it is certain beyond a reasonable doubt that some Jesuit missionary had been here prior to 1700. They had accomplished wonderful results in converting the Indians that inhabited the country about the present site of Vincennes. The records of St. Francis Xavier Church, as preserved (I use the words "as preserved" as Bishop Brute used them whenever he referred to these records) show from April, 1749, for half a century after the greater part of the entries of baptisms, marriages and funerals were of Indian converts. This vast number of Indian converts to the faith as evidenced by these records as preserved show that the work of the missionaries, while fruitful of good, was not the work of a day or month, but of many years. The untamed savages of the forest could not be converted to Christianity at short notice. The labors of the missionaries were not only slow, but dangerous. In this connection Judge Law in his address delivered on February 22, 1838, says:

"It was not only toil of hunger and cold that the Jesuit missionaries of the cross were called upon to endure, but many, very many were tomahawked, or what was far worse, burned at the stake. No sooner was it known that their predecessors had perished at the stake or by the scalping knife than new recruits offered their services to fill their places. In fact a mission among the Indians was a labor of love to these heralds of the cross."

From the statements already made it seems clear that the site of Vincennes had been visited by white men long before 1700, and probably as early as 1660. But these visits of civ-

ilized men were made in some cases for purposes of trade and traffic with the Indians, or by Jesuit missionaries for the purpose of spreading the true faith among the Indian tribes. And these early visits cannot be referred to as the date of the actual founding and permanent settlement of Vincennes. But there are other evidences more tangible and reliable that will throw much light on the subject to which I shall now refer, and which fixes the true date of its founding about 1700.

When the Indiana Territory was organized in 1800 and the capital of the Territory fixed at Vincennes, it at once became a centre of interest and attracted the cream of the energetic, aspiring and cultivated men from all the older States of the Union. Vincennes was a prominent point in the west before 1800, and many eminent men came and settled here as early as 1780. But the organization of the territory gave fresh impulse and prominence to the place and greatly accelerated its increase in population and wealth. John Law, Elihu Stout, John Ewing and Samuel Judah and other prominent citizens who came and located here between 1800 and 1820 asserted that the population of the place by 1820 was as great as it is today. But the loss of the capital and the dreadful epidemic of 1820 that visited the place that year discouraged and terrified the citizens and depopulated the place, and for years retarded its growth.

The many educated and distinguished men who came and located at Vincennes when the territory was organized, took a deep interest in everything calculated to promote and advance the prosperity of the place. In the early days of the territorial government, and before 1809, they procured the passage by the territorial legislature of many incorporations with this object in view. Among these incorporations I will enumerate the following three: The Vincennes University, The Vincennes Library, and The Vincennes Historical and

Antiquarian Society. The object of the last named corporation, as its name implies, was to investige and establish authentic evidence concerning the early history of the place. Among the many distinguished men who were members of the Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society I will enumerate the following: William Henry Harrison, John Gibson, Waller Taylor, Nathaniel Ewing, John Badollet, Elihu Stout, Moses Tabbs, Isaac Blackford, Thomas Randolph, John Law, John Ewing, Benjamin Parke, George Rodgers Clark Sullivan, Samuel Judah and many others equally distinguished. Nearly all of these distinguished men came here about the year 1800. They found when they came old settlers who had been connected with the place for periods ranging from twenty-five to seventy-five years before 1800. And these old people had knowledge of the place from those who had been living here before them extending back to a period prior to 1700. Among these old people I will enumerate Francis Vigo Laurent Bazadone, Angeline Burdalow, Paul Gamelin, John Rice Jones and General W. Johnson.

One of the first subjects that occupied the attention of the Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society was fixing the date when Vincennes was settled by the French. Before 1820 the date of the settlement of Vincennes by the French was fixed by the Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society at the year 1680. Here the matter quietly rested until the advent of Bishop Brute in 1834. He found in the church library connected with St. Francis Xavier church registers and many manuscript documents which had been neglected, as no one had before him been inclined to burn the midnight oil in looking them over, page by page, the only way to obtain the valuable historic information they contained, as they were not indexed, but a confused mass. But Bishop Brute did this. He furnished the public, from time to time, through the columns of the *Western Sun* newspaper the re-

sults of this investigation. He was a studious, careful and truthful man, and made no statement unless fully sustained by authority in making it, and which can be relied on as correct. He stated that he had found evidence in the church records here and in the records of the Mission of St. Louis of Peoria, and the Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary at Kaskaskia, Illinois, and the recorder's office there, that both the town of Vincennes (not then known by that name), and the Church of St. Francis Xavier here were both in existence as early as 1708, and perhaps earlier. And in one of his last communications published in the *Western Sun* he says he will continue the search, and if anything additional is found indicating an earlier date he will communicate it to the public. But his investigations were unfortunately terminated by his death in June, 1839. In this connection I will remark that in 1835 Bishop Brute, to familiarize himself with the wants of his immense diocese, embracing all of Indiana and Illinois, made a pastoral visit in person, travelling on horseback, to all the missionary stations in that vast territory and carefully examined the church records they contained. He made a detailed report of this pastoral visit through his diocese in his own happy manner to the Leopoldine Association in France in return for assistance lent him to build up his diocese, a great part of which report is inserted in Father Allerding's (now bishop of Fort Wayne, Indiana) History of the Diocese of Vincennes.

The communications of Bishop Brute on the subject of the early settlement of Vincennes published in the *Western Sun* revived interest in the question and the Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society again considered it. John Law, at the request of this society, delivered his celebrated address on February 22, 1839, when the question was under discussion by this society for the second time. Upon this reconsideration that society before 1840, settled upon 1683 as the date

of the settlement of Vincennes by the French. This decision of that society was generally accepted by the citizens of Vincennes as conclusive of the question, and it became a common saying, as I well remember, and as many old citizens of Vincennes now living also remember, that *Vincennes was settled the year after Philadelphia.* It is well known as a historic fact that Philadelphia was settled in 1682.

Were these men qualified and competent to examine, adjudicate and determine this question? It is sure they were far better qualified than persons living at a distance who have written upon and expressed opinions as to the true date of the settlement of Vincennes. To illustrate this I will only refer to three members of the Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society, and the peculiar opportunities they possessed of examining and passing a reliable judgment upon the question. These three members are Nathaniel Ewing, John Badollet and Elihu Stout. The two first came to Vincennes almost with the advent of the territorial government in 1800. The first as receiver of public monies, and the second as the register of the United States land office in this land district. The third came a little later in the spring of 1804. They were all members of that society and took an active part in the discussion of the question. Messrs. Ewing and Badollet were the equals intellectually of any of the able men who came to Vincennes in territorial days. They all located here permanently and died and were buried here. They all possessed superior advantages for examining and determining this question above others from the very nature of their several employments. Elihu Stout published the first newspaper in the Northwest Territory at this place, commencing on July 4, 1804, and continuing its publication until the fall of 1845, and from the nature of his business came in contact with the people generally and ascertained their views upon all public questions. Messrs. Ewing and Badollet constituted the board

of commissioners appointed by the Federal Government to examine and adjust land titles founded upon the grants of land to the early French settlers from the different commandants of the post while the country was under the jurisdiction of France, and which grants had been secured to the several grantees by treaty stipulations and acts of Congress. These commissioners held their sessions at Vincennes from 1804 to 1810, and examined and passed upon these old French land grants reaching back to the first settlement of Vincennes by the French. And as there was no record or documentary evidence of these old French grants, the commissioners were compelled to hear oral testimony to establish them. This necessarily brought them in close contact in their official capacity with the old French settlers who could give testimony concerning these French land grants extending back in many cases to the first settlement of Vincennes by the French.

These were the men who took an active part in the discussion of the question as to the date of the settlement of Vincennes by the French, and who finally fixed the date of settlement at 1683. Messrs Ewing and Badollet were perhaps better qualified to determine this question than any other persons from the very nature of their employment in tracing back matters to the very beginning. Is not more reliance and confidence due and should be given in determining this question to the opinions and conclusions of men who lived and died in Vincennes and were actually a part of its history than upon the mere dicta and opinions of men who never lived here, nor visited the place, or who were here only for a few days, and with these crude and imperfect impressions thus obtained in hasty visits went off and published books purporting to give facts? Count Volney, the celebrated traveller, who was here in 1796 for a few days only, states in the history of his travels that the place was settled by the French in 1735. David Thomas, who was here at a much later date, and for a

few days only, follows in his wake and gives the erroneous date given by Count Volney. Monette, Flint and Scott, who have all given an opinion on the subject of the date of the settlement of Vincennes by the French were never here so far as I know, and derived their information from second-hand sources upon which they based their opinions and conclusions. John B. Dillon, who published a book purporting to be a history of Indiana, on the question of the date of the settlement of Vincennes by the French, cannot be regarded as any authority on the subject against the combined opinions of such men as I have referred to.

It is matter of sincere regret that the Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society was permitted to perish for want of appreciation and support. The valuable collection of important physical specimens contained in its museum, and its documents and records were suffered to be carried off and scattered, and are not now for the greater part in existence, or at least are not accessible to the public.

But there are other evidences bearing on the subject of the date of the settlement of Vincennes by the French to which I will now refer. It is recorded in the Quebec annals that Francois Morganne de Vincenne, an officer in the service of the King of France, was commissioned for the purpose and started from Detroit in the early spring of 1702 with French troops to build three forts. One was to be built at the junction of the St. Mary's and St. Joseph rivers, where they form the Maumee river, where the city of Fort Wayne now stands. The second was to be built on the Wabash river on the Weco plains, about seven miles below the site of the present city of Lafayette. The third was to be built on the "Colline gravois." on the Wabash river, the site of the present city of Vincennes. The Quebec annals also state that he came to this place on that mission and actually built a fort in the fall of 1702. He was accompanied according to the annals by a Jesuit mission-

ary, who offered up the Holy Sacrifice of the mass on the bank of the Wabash river in the open air near where the fort was to be built in the presence of the troops who came to build the fort and many Indians. If the Quebec annals are reliable and satisfactory authority then the evidence of the actual founding of Vincennes may be regarded as conclusive.

But it has been claimed by some, on what authority I do not know, that the Quebec annals are not in all cases accurate and reliable in fixing the dates of the happening of events. This may be true in some cases, especially concerning some of the Jesuit missions in the wilderness of the West. This inaccuracy in some instances results from the fact that many of these missions were 2,500 miles distant from the place where the annals were compiled and published. This inaccuracy results also, if there is found any inaccuracy which I do not admit from the great distance of some of the missions from Quebec where they were published, the uncertain and difficult mode of communication between them and the lapse of time after the happening of the events related and their communication to the mother house of the Jesuit order and before the information was received and the record made and published. But in no instance can it be shown that the events related did not actually happen and the date assigned, if inaccurate in any case which I deny, is more apt to be too recent rather than too remote. The Quebec annals state that the French came here in 1702 and built a fort, which actually remained standing to a period within the recollection of persons living in Vincennes at the present time. If it cannot be shown that this fact recited in the Quebec annals is not correct then I hold the Quebec annals should definitely settle the question if there is any question about the matter.

The writer has not personally inspected the Quebec annals and makes the above statement of their contents on the authority of Bishop Brute, Bishop Hailandiere, Father Aller-

ding in his history and Edmund Mallet of the Carroll Institute at Washington City, D. C.

What are the Quebec annals? They comprise 72 volumes, printed by the Jesuit Fathers at Quebec, containing the relations and transactions of the Jesuit missionaries in the different missions of the Jesuit order in the Northwest. They commence in the year 1610 and continue to the year 1780, when the Jesuit order was suppressed. They are either in the French, Latin or Italian languages according to the nationality of the missionary who wrote them. Twenty of these volumes are now in the library connected with St. Francis Xavier Church of this city. But unfortunately they do not go back to the date of the settlement of Vincennes. These annals were not until very recently within reach of the general student. It is certain these annals contain the most reliable historic information concerning discoveries and settlements in the Northwest Territory. So important is the historical knowledge contained in these annals that the Historical Society of Wisconsin which has done so much to determine historic events in the west when the celebrated historian, Lyman C. Draper, was secretary of that society determined in 1894 to have the Quebec annals translated and published in the English language. This herculean task was immediately commenced by a competent force of translators and prosecuted until the work was completed, and the important historic information contained in the annals brought within reach of the general student. The writer endeavored to procure a copy of this translation covering the period of the early settlement of Vincennes, but could not procure them, as no broken volumes would be sold, but the entire set must be taken. An effort was then made to have those important volumes purchased and placed in the city library, but the effort failed and these important works were not secured for the city library, but their places have been filled with useless

works of fiction of no real value. This action was akin to that want of foresight which permitted the Harrison mansion to pass into private hands instead of being purchased for a public museum and library for the use of the city, as it was from 1812 to 1832, when occupied by John Cleves Symmes Harrison, a son of General Harrison.

The work of translating and publishing in the English language has just been completed. The English edition was published by Burrows Bros., publishers of Cleveland, O., under the title of "The Jesuit Relations and Allied Documents Containing the Travels and Explorations of the Jesuit Missionaries in New France from 1610 to 1791." The work is edited by Reuben Gold Thwaites, the present secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society. In the conclusion of the 72nd and last volume he writes as follows:

"The editors decided to go to the sources never depending on a printed version when ever the original manuscript could be obtained, thereby elminating so far as might be the changes introduced by such earlier copyists and reprinters as had taken more or less liberties with the text. Approaching the task with no conscious prejudices of race or religion, it has been the sole desire of the editor impartially to collect, preserve and annotate the great body of documents having so important a bearing upon the foundations of American history."

The 72nd and last volume of these relations has just been issued from the press of Burrows Bros., of Cleveland, O., the present year.

But there are other and abundant evidence of equal authenticity and credibility upon the subject of the settlement of Vincennes by the French to which I will now refer. There is abundant and conclusive evidence in the writings of Bishop Brute that the French built a fort and made a permanent settlement here about the beginning of the year 1700. In a

communication published in the *Western Sun* newspaper of Saturday, April 27, 1839, he states:

"We find that Father John Mermet came from Quebec to St. Louis of Peoria in 1708 on his way to the post on the 'Ouabasche.'"

The Mission of St. Louis of Peoria referred to by the Bishop was situated on what was then called Lake Peoria, but which in fact was only an expansion of the Illinois River where the city of Peoria in Illinois, is now located. This was one of the Jesuit missionary stations which Bishop Brute visited and examined its church records on his pastoral visit in 1835. This Father Mermet is no myth, but on the contrary a well-known historic character. He remained at this place as a missionary priest from the time he came in 1708 until the latter part of November, 1712, when he returned to Kaskaskai, where he remained until his death in 1728, and was buried there in the church of the Immaculate Conception. He left writings which Bishop Brute personally inspected on his visit to Kaskaskia in 1835, and which conclusively show that Father Mermet was here in 1708. From his writings Bishop Brute made an extract which he published in the *Western Sun* of Saturday, April 27, 1839, as follows:

"An epidemic desolated the village in 1708, and the Indians died in great numbers. The jugglers kept up their delusions. They ordered a great sacrifice of their dogs. Forty of these poor animals, innocent as they were of the cause of the epidemic, to satisfy their manitoes, were immolated and carried on poles in a solemn procession around the fort. Realize, if you can in mind, the wretched procession on one side led on by these fanatical jugglers, and the gaze of the soldiers and their officers, of the traders and the whole population of the village at that time listening to the loud appeals of the Indians."

This unquestioned evidence of Father Mermet shows con-

clusively that the fort and village were here in 1708. It shows also that he was the resident priest or missionary here in 1708.

But there is other and very sufficient evidence to corroborate the statement of Father Mermet. Father Gabriel Marest, missionary of the Society of Jesus, stationed at Kaskaskai, from a date as early as 1700, until long after 1725, conclusively corroborates the fact that Father Mermet was sent here as a missionary some time before 1712, but the precise date when he was sent is not given. The Mission of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin at Kaskaskia, Ill., was the principal mission and headquarters of the Jesuits in the Northwest Territory. From a letter written by him, dated at Kaskaskia, November 9, 1712, and addressed to Father German General of the Jesuit Order in Paris, France we quote as follows:

"The French having lately established a fort on the river "Onabasche," demanded a priest or missionary, and Father John Mermet was sent to them."

This latter is inserted in a historic work of undoubted reliability published in Paris, France, in the year 1761. It is inserted in that historic work on page 325 thereof. It will be observed that the letter does not give the precise date when the French built or established a fort on the "Ouabasche," but it must have been some years before November 9, 1712, the date of the letter, for the French inhabitants to have so increased in numbers at that early date to have merited and demanded the services of a missionary.

In the year 1837 an old oak tree standing on the west bank of the Wabash River in Vermillion county, Indiana, near the town of Eugene, was felled. An axe of French manufacture was found embedded in the tree. The annual growths around the axe were counted by persons skilled in matter of that kind and it was found that the annual growths around the axe in-

dicated that it had been inserted in the tree at a period possibly as early as 1700, and certainly not later than 1705. The difficulty in fixing the exact date when the axe was inserted was in consequence of the blending of the growths around the axe where the wound was inflicted on the tree. On this account the blending and confusion of growths the exact date of its insertion could not be determined with greater precision than between the year 1700 and 1705. One hundred and twenty-seven growths were distinct, and a number immediately around the axe confused. It was stated at the time the axe was found that it had been inserted in the tree by some Jesuit missionary on his lonely journey through the wilderness. But this could not be in the nature of things as it is well known that the Jesuit missionaries among the Indians of the Northwest never carried axes or weapons of any kind. They only carried crosses on their lonely pilgrimage through the wilderness. Neither could it have been inserted by one of a small party who carried few axes, as its loss would have been noticed and the implement recovered. It was inserted by one of a large party, and its loss was not noticed on account of the large number they carried. It is reasonable to suppose this axe was inserted in that oak tree by one of the men accompanying de Vincenne on his way down the Wabash River to this place in the fall of 1702 to build the fort here. And I claim, with reason, that this is a natural record aiding and contributing by its silent and unimpeachable testimony in fixing the date of the building of the fort here, and the actual founding of Vincennes about the year 1700.

CHAPTER XII.

CLARK'S KASKASKIA CAMPAIGN.

The inhabitants in the Northwest at the time of its acquisition by Great Britain in 1763, were almost, if not exclusively, French people or the descendants of French, and were all animated by that common race prejudice that then existed and still exists between the English and French people. They were not reconciled to the change of ruler and always regretted that by the terms of the treaty of Paris this promising and rich country had been wrested from their beloved France. This race prejudice is well known to exist among all peoples of different nationalities and can never be obliterated, and is still active and potent after the lapse of centuries. As an illustration, take the Irish race, and it is well known that a bitter hatred exists between the Celt and the Anglo Saxon. Show me an Irish Catholic in any quarter of the habitable globe, whether beneath the burning rays of a tropical sun, or the frozen regions of the North, and I will at the same time show you a bitter and determined foe of the British government. This hatred has been engendered by the centuries of injustice and oppression that relentless power has inflicted upon their native isle. They are ever ready to seize upon any occasion to raise their hand against the oppressor. During the Revolutionary War it filled the roster of officers and the ranks of the revolutionary soldiery with Irishmen. Among the forces under George Rogers Clark, that took part in the capture of Kaskaskia, there were many Irishmen, and found there in consequence of this race prejudice. Of the 150 men that are said to have composed his force when he started upon his Kaskas-

kia campaign, the following were Irishmen, either by birth or descent: Lieutenant-Colonel John Montgomery, Major Thomas Quick, Captain Richard McCarty, John Rodgers, John Williams, Lieutenant Valentine Dalton, James Montgomery, James Robertson, Lawrence Slaughter, John Swann, Sergeants John Brand, James Brown, Michael Miles, John Moore, John O'Rear, Robert Patterson, John Vaughan, John Williams, Privates John Ash, Thomas Batten, William Bell, James Bigger, John Bayle, James Bryant, Edward Bulger, Nicholas Burke, John Campbell, Andrew Conore, Thomas Clifton, Dennis Chohern, Cornelius Copeland, John Cowan, James Curry, Robert Davis, Frederick Doherty, Neal Doherty, Patrick Dorn, John Duff, Edward Fear, Samuel Finley, James Finley, James Finn, John McFlanagan, Michael Glass, David Glenn, Francis Godfrey, John Green, John Grimes, William Gwin, Silas Harland, Hugh Henry, Barney Higgins, John Hughes, Edward Johnson, Mathew Jones, John Jaynes, William Learne, Richard Lutterell, John Lyons, Joseph Lyons, Isaac McBride, Francis McDermott, David McDonald, John McGann, Alexander McIntyre, George McManus, John McManus, John McManus, Jr., Samuel McMillen, James McNutt, Francis Mahoney, Patrick Marr, Charles Martin, John Montgomery, John Moore, Thomas Moore, John Murphy, Edward Murray, Peter Newton, Michael O'Hara, Daniel O'Bear, Peter Preist, William Parcell, William Slack, Francis Spellman, John Talley, Joseph Thornton, Daniel Tiger, Barney Whallen and Dominique Welch.

And what, was it that induced Marquie de La Fayette Count de Grasse and Count de Rochambeau to come and take part in our revolution? It was not for any love of liberty, as we understand, and use that word. The two latter were officers in the service of the King of France, long before and long afterwards. It was a desire to aid their own country. It was a military stratagem to attack the English as it were in the

rear by aiding her revolted colonies, and thus effect her dismemberment and weakening of that power. And all this was brought about by race prejudice. By this, I do not wish to detract in the least, from the debt of gratitude we owe these men, and all others who rendered our country assistance in time of need. I only go beneath the outward surface of things and indicate the controlling motives that prompted their action.

The idea that originated the military movement against Kaskaskia was based upon the race prejudice, known to exist between the French and English. It was known to the authorities of Virginia that all the inhabitants of Kaskaskia were Frenchmen, either by birth or descent. It was also equally known that they all chafed under British domination and would be willing at any favorable opportunity to throw it off. This knowledge justified the authorities of Virginia in making the attempt. It could not be supposed that any force Virginia could send at that time against Kaskaskia, if met with active opposition, would be crowned with success. The condition of affairs at Kaskaskia may have been obtained from some of the French officers in the American army. There can be no doubt in the mind of an intelligent man that the Virginia authorities obtained it from some source before they countenanced and authorized the expedition against Kaskaskia. Otherwise the project in view of the fact that the state was involved in a death struggle at home, would have been foolhardy and ridiculous. And this debt of gratitude or moral obligation which the American people were under to the *"French and Canadian inhabitants and other settlers of the Kaskaskia, St. Vincents and the neighboring villages"* of the territory northwest of the Ohio River for their throwing off the allegiance of Great Britain and acknowledging themselves citizens of Virginia at the bare request of Col. Clarke, without offering any resistance, was tacitly acknowledged by the

Federal Government upon acquiring the territory from Virginia in 1783.

It will be remembered that the territory northwest of the Ohio River was acquired by the State of Virginia by her troops under Col. Clarke, acting under the commission of Patrick Henry, the Governor of Virginia, Kaskaskia in July, 1778, and St. Vincents in February, 1779. This was during the Revolutionary War and before the independence of the American colonies had been acknowledged by Great Britain. The United States by their act of September 6th, 1780, recommended to the several states having claims to waste and unappropriated lands in the western country, "to make a liberal cession of such lands to the United States for the common benefit of the Union." The State of Virginia in accordance with said recommendation of Congress, did by her act passed on the 2d day of January, 1781, agree to the recommendation of Congress subject to the following conditions, viz: 1st, that the territory so ceded should be divided into states and admitted into the Union on the same footing as the original states; 2d, that the expenses of Virginia in acquiring said territory should be paid to her by the United States: 3d, *"that the French and Canadian inhabitants and other settlers of the Kaskaskia, St. Vincents and neighboring villages, who professed themselves citizens of Virginia, should have their possessions and titles confirmed to them."*

It is further known that the United States by the act of September, 1783, acceded to these conditions. It is further known that the State of Virginia subsequently by an act of her legislature in 1783, authorized her delegates in Congress to cede and transfer to the United States her landed possessions northwest of the Ohio River, and that by the authority of said act, Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Hardy, Arthur Lee and James Monroe, the delegates in Congress from the State

of Virginia, on the 1st day of March, 1784, conveyed said territory to the United States by deed of that date.

It is thus apparent by the mere recital of legislative and historical facts that the *only* obligation resting upon the United States in consideration of said cession, was that *"the French and Canadian inhabitants and other settlers of the Kaskaskia , St. Vincents and the neighboring villages who had professed themselves citizens of Virginia, should have their possessions and titles confirmed to them."* There was no condition or obligation whatever that the United States should make such inhabitants any *additional* grants of land, but simply to confirm to them such lands and titles as they *already* possessed. In discharge of the obligation thus imposed upon the United States a commission was appointed by the United States to investigate and determine what lands and titles said inhabitants possessed and when ascertained by said commission which sat and held session at Vincennes from 1804 to 1810, the said lands were confirmed to them by Congress. But it is well known the United States did more than the condition and obligation imposed by the act of Virginia required to be done. By resolution of Congress, passed Aug. 29, 1788, and the act of Congress of March 3d, 1791, it was provided that 400 acres of land should be donated to every head of a family at Post Vincennes and Kaskaskia, at and prior to 1783, the date of the acquisition of the territory by the United States from Virginia. And this grant of 400 acres of land applied to every head of a family who had ever been at Post Vincennes or the Kaskaskias at any time prior to 1783, whether they remained such inhabitants or had left the territory. To provide for filling this voluntary grant, a tract of land in Knox County, Indiana, ten miles square, was surveyed and divided into 400 acre lots for this purpose. And such original tract not being sufficient to supply all such inhabitants as was subsequently ascertained, two additional do-

nation tracts were surveyed and set apart for such purpose so that all of such inhabitants as aforesaid, should receive a 400 acre tract of land or their heirs or assigns. This grant of 400 acres of land was in addition to any obligation resting upon the United States by virtue of the cession from Virgina, and was a voluntary offering or gift to such inhabitants and was given them as a free will offering to reward them for their promptly espousing the cause of the American colonies and discarding all allegiance to Great Britain, upon the simple request of Col. Clarke, without firing a gun or showing the slightest resistance.

The town of Kaskaskia was the oldest of the settlements of the French in the northwest. It was the most populous settlement containing probably 3,500 population, was well fortified and supplied with cannon, small arms and munitions of war and defended by a strong garrison. But without exception they were all French people. Governor John Reynolds in his pioneer history of Illinois, referring to Kaskaskia at the date of Clarke's arrival there in July, 1778, says:

"Kaskaskia was to Illnois then what Paris is at this day to France. Both were in their respective days the great emporiums of fashion, gaiety and happiness. Kaskaskia was for many years the largest town west of the Allegheny mountains. It was a tolerable place before Pittsburg or Cincinnati had any existence."

But Kaskaskia since that period has gone back until it is not now a station for a postoffice. For many years afterwards Kaskaskia continued to be the most populous and important town in Illinois. It was the first capital of the territory and state and remained such until 1820, when it was removed to Vandalia. But it still maintained its prominence and all the printing of the state, even for years after the removal of the capital to Vandalia in 1820, was done at Kaskaskia. The first term of the Supreme Court of Illinois was held at Vandalia

in December, 1820, but the first volume of its reports, by Sidney Breese, was published in November, 1831, at Kaskaskia.

Yet it was such a town and fortress that Col. George Rogers Clarke, with only 150 men, captured in the short space of a few hours, before Rochblave, the British commander, had risen from his bed, without firing a gun or losing a man. When Col. Clarke's force arrived before Kaskaskia they had been since leaving the falls of the Ohio, on the go for eleven days, seven of which had been spent marching through a desert country. They were without cannon, horses or any provisions, except what they carried. They were hungry and footsore. Would it not seem incredible that such a force could capture such a place as Kaskaskia is represented to have been at that time, without some cause, except brute force, operating in their favor, that made it possible. Such a cause did operate in his favor and Col. Clarke knew it would operate. He knew from two men from Kaskaskia, he met on his overland march to that place, that the race prejudice between the French and English, would operate in his favor. He knew the inhabitants of Kaskaskia were all French people and hostile to the British and ready to throw off the yoke at any favorable opportunity.

It is a well known fact from the journal of Major Bowman, an officer in Clarke's command, that the supplies and men authorized to be furnished him by Virginia, were owing to many causes and difficulties never actually furnished. On account of this failure the prospects of a successful issue of the campaign before starting from the falls of the Ohio, were anything but encouraging. It was thought for a time it would be abandoned altogether. But Gen. Clarke was a man of undoubted courage and determination and relying upon the race prejudice that was known to exist he determined to make the attempt with the small force he had gathered.

He started from the falls of the Ohio River on his way to

Kaskaskia on June 28th, 1778. That Kaskaskia was the objective point of his expedition is clear from the commission of Gov. Henry from which we extract as follows:

"You are to proceed with all convenient speed to raise seven companies of soldiers to consist of fifty men each, officered in the usual manner and armed most properly for the enterprise, and with this force attack the British post at Kaskaskia. It is conjectured there are many pieces of cannon and military stores in considerable amount at that place, the taking and preservation of which, would be a valuable acquisition to the state. * * * If the inhabitants at the post will give evidence of their attachment to this state, let them be treated as fellow citizens and their persons and property duly secured. Assistance and protection against all enemies, whatever shall be afforded them, and the Commonwealth of Virginia is pledged to accomplish it."

This objective point of the expedition is also manifest from the journal of Major Bowman, who does not mention or hint any other ulterior point being in contemplation. The force of Col. Clarke proceeded down the Ohio River in boats to a point a few miles below the mouth of the Tennessee River. There the boats were abandoned and a march overland to Kaskaskia was begun. The route of this march was over a desert country with no road and no convenience to cheer them on the way. They only carried muskets and such provisions as they could carry on their back. After a tedious march of seven days through this wilderness, they arrived weary and worn out before Kaskaskia, on the 3rd of July, 1778. Kaskaskia was situated on the opposite bank of the river and the journal of Major Bowman says their advance was discovered from the town. Gen. Clarke crossed the river the next day, July 4th, 1778, and appeared before the fortified town of Kaskaskia.

In accounts originating from Gen. Clarke and his com-

mand, it is stated that when his small force appeared before the walls of the town of Kaskaskia, from indications observed, they feared they would meet with resistance, but a Catholic priest opened the gates of the fort and approached Gen. Clarke and had an interview with him. This priest was undoubtedly Pierre Gibault, the patriot priest of the West.

It was quite natural that seeing an armed force of strangers approaching the place that the inhabitants should wish to be advised of the cause and object of their coming. It is also stated that this priest and Gen. Clarke had an interview. It is fair to presume that in this interview Gen. Clarke informed this priest of their object and intentions, and that they would be protected in their persons, property and religion. This priest, if the surmise is correct, was already enlisted against the English cause, returned to the fort and advised the admittance of the strangers, and soon after the gates were opened and Gen. Clarke entered the fortified town and the bloodless capture of Kaskaskia was accomplished without firing a gun or loosing a man, even before the British commander was aware of the fact.

It is fair to conclude that it all happened as stated and that the above is a true account of the case. In after years it became necessary to magnify the achievement for the purpose of self aggrandizement and to stimulate rewards and land grants. In reading some accounts of this remarkable achievement, the intelligent reader is led to recall the wonderful and Don Quixotic performances of Sir John Falstaff, as related by that master and thorough probe of human nature, and especially of Anglo-Saxon braggadocio, William Shakespeare.

Hon. William H. English in vol. 1 on page 171 of his work, quotes Major Bowman, an officer in Clarke's command, who was writing concerning Kaskaskia at the time of its capture by Clark, as using this strong and forcible language:

"Kaskaskia was so fortified that it might have resisted a thousand men."

And Governor Reynolds in his history of the capture of Kaskaskia by Gen. Clarke in 1778, says: "Clarke had no cannon or means of assaulting the fort and therefore was compelled to use strategem."

This language by learned men concerning the capture of Kaskaskia, sounds strange in the ears of men acquainted with the facts in the case. How could Gen. Clark use strategem when his own account states their advance was detected a day before the surrender. And how could a bloodless issue have been achieved against such a fortified fort? There is no question but that Kaskaskia was well fortified at the time and supplied with cannon and ammunition. One blast from these heavy guns would have scattered the weak and weary forces of Gen. Clarke as autumn winds scatter faded leaves from the forest trees.

After gaining possession of Kaskaskia as above stated, Gen. Clark sent small detachments from his own *small* force and in succession obtained peaceable possession of Cahokia, Prairie du Rocher and all the French villages on the Mississippi River in the same bloodless manner. And it is reasonable to conclude, and we do conclude, that all these bloodless triumphs were the result of some influence other than military necessity. They all fell into the hands of Gen. Clark as the ripe apple falls to the ground from the parent stem. It is fair and just we think to attribute these bloodless results to the influence of Gibault from the necessary operation of well known causes. He had been laboring at all these French settlements for more than ten years. He was unquestionably the ablest man in the entire northwest territory. He labored day and night, teaching the children and adults, not only on Sunday but on week days. He was so successful that in about six months after his arrival there in September, 1768, he

brought them all back within the fold of the church, and almost the entire population received communion on Easter Sunday, 1769. The same thing he accomplished at Cahokia and Prairie du Rocher and all the missions on both sides of the Mississippi River. He built and blessed the first chapel on the site of the present city of St. Louis, when Col. Francis Vigo resided there.

When Gen. Clark had thus obtained possession of Kaskaskia and all the French villages on the Mississippi River, he had fully accomplished the objects embraced in his commission from Gov. Henry. But he was not to receive his discharge. His invaluable services and his undoubted courage, were not to be dispensed with. He was to receive a new commission, not from Gov. Henry, but in all probability from Pierre Gibault. It was then for the first time it was heard mentioned that the capture of the fort on the Wabash River at this place, was to be undertaken. It was represented to Gen. Clark that the fort here was the real key to the possession of the northwest territory. That the capture of Kaskaskia was not so important, as the capture of the fort on the Wabash would be, which was in the heart of the northwest while Kaskaskia was only an outpost on the frontier and adjoining a foreign, if not a hostile state. He therefore urged upon Gen. Clark to undertake the capture of the fort on the Wabash here. He represented to him how easy it was of accomplishment and how the same conditions on the part of the inhabitants in the post here would operate in his favor, as they had operated at Kaskaskia. He promised and agreed to furnish him additional men and means to render the expedition successful. Gen. Clark was convinced and agreed to command the expedition and thus was organized at Kaskaskia the expedition to capture the fort at Vincennes. The intelligent reader of the transaction will come to the conclusion that it all happened as stated above.

CHAPTER XIII.

CLARK'S ST. VINCENT CAMPAIGN.

In 1770 there came to Vincennes as the parish priest here the Rev. Pierre Gibault. He came to the Northwest from Quebec, as the vicar general of the Archbishop of that place. He remained here as the parish priest with the exception of an interregnum in 1778, when he was expelled by Governor Hamilton, until 1789. He was without question the most learned and influential man in the Northwest at that early day. He had almost unbounded influence over the inhabitants here who were all French by birth or descent. In the winter of 1778 he received information of the pending struggle of the American colonies against Great Britain for independence. This information had been studiously concealed from the inhabitants of the Northwest by the British authorities in Canada. The struggle had been actively in progress for upwards of two years before it was known here. There were no roads or means of communication with the Atlantic from this place at that early day. All information came by way of the lake region of the north. When Rev. Pierre Gibault heard of this struggle with the natural instincts animating every cultured Frenchman he at once decided to join the rebellious colonies and cast his lot and influence in their favor. In the latter part of the winter of 1778 he announced at mass to his parishoners that he wished them to meet him at a stated time as he had important information to communicate to them. That meeting so announced was accordingly held. It has been frequently stated this meeting was held in the old church here. But it was not held there. All accounts we have of this remarkable man and his austere church dis-

cipline indicate he would have considered it a desecration to hold such a meeting in the church. Besides the church was not a suitable place for such a meeting. It was a small structure with no windows or openings except a door. It had no pews or any floor except the eath. This meeting was held in the old fort, which was large and a better place, and was then unoccupied. When the meeting so called was assembled the Rev. Father Gibault addressed them in French to this purport:

"*My Beloved Brethren and Fellow Citizens*:

"I have received authentic and reliable information that the American colonies on the Atlantic Ocean have revolted and are now at war with England in a struggle for independence. This war has now been going on for upwards of two years with varying success. We have just received the first account of its being waged. The English authorities in Canada have studiously kept us in ignorance of the fact, fearing we would follow the example of so many of our French brethren and join the colonists and throw off our allegiance to them. This is a just struggle of the weak against the strong. It is our duty as Frenchmen and lovers of our native land to render all the assistance we can to the struggling colonies. Everything we do in this way will in reality be done in the interest of our French brethren. Therefore I propose that we throw off all allegiance to the English nation and declare ourselves citizens of the revolted colonies. I propose that you manifest this declaration and intention by taking the oath of allegiance to the American cause, and if you are agreed I will now administer the oath of allegiance to you and will assist in hauling down the English emblem of its sovereignty over this fort."

At the conclusion of this address the entire population of the place with one accord agreed to take the oath of allegiance to the American cause and asknowledged themselves citizens

thereof. The oath of allegiance was thereupon administered to them by Father Gibault, and the English flag was hauled down over the old fort on the *"Onabasche."*

When the British authorities in Canada became aware of these proceedings Governor Henry Hamilton was sent here to re-take possession of the old fort. He came and the fort being practically unguarded, only Lieutenant Helm and one other person with him being in the fort, he had no difficulty in gaining possession of it. Father Gibault, in consequence of his connection with this affair, incurred the displeasure of the English. They could not brook the idea of letting the key to the possession of the Northwest pass from their grasp. Father Gibault was arrested by Gov. Hamilton and held as a prisoner for some time. Finally it was agreed by Gov. Hamilton to liberate him if he would leave the place. Father Gibault agreed to this and left, and returned to Kaskaskia. This expulsion of Gibault was a year before Gen. Clark came in February, 1779, and was providential and ultimately proved a great advantage to the American cause in the Revolutionary War. It placed this able and influential man where he could assist in wresting the great Northwest Territory from the English. It placed him very fortunately at Kaskaskia, when Gen. Clark approached that place in July, 1778.

After he had fully accomplished the task outlined by the commission of Governor Henry of Virginia, and secured peaceable possession of all the French villages on the Mississippi River the project was for the first time broached to organize another expedition to capture the old fort here. This scheme was suggested, it is safe to assert, by Pierre Gibault. No other character of whom any account has reached us, was to be found in the entire Northwest possessed of the necessary knowledge, influence and ability to plan and hope to successfully carry out such an expedition.

To show that the capture of the fort on the *"Onabasche"*

was not within the scope of Clark's original program, it is sufficient to remark it was not named in his commission from Governor Henry. It was not named by any one in his command until after the bloodless capture of Kaskaskia. And in addition it may be said that the fort here was not known to Gen. Clark or his command until after his capture of Kaskaskia. There was no road or other communications between this place and even Kentucky at that early date. If it had been within the scope of Gen. Clarke's objective point he could have reached this place by a march of only fifty miles from the Ohio River, and from here he could have proceeded to Kaskaskai by a shorter, better and well known route, than the one he took from the Ohio River.

But upon this point there is no room for doubt or question. The capture of the fort here was not in the original plan of Clark's campaign. It was suggested and originated at Kaskaskia by Father Gibault, the only man at the time having the ability to plan or carry out such a scheme. He represented to Gen. Clark the importance of the fort here, the general feeling of the French inhabitants, and the defenseless condition of the fort at the time. He proposed to furnish him additional troops from Kaskaskai, and means to carry it forward, and also guides to lead the force to this place. He did all this. He furnished Gen. Clark two companies of troops, all Catholics and all members of his congregation. One of these companies under the command of McKay, and the other under the command of Francois Charleville. These two companies from Kaskaskai came with Gen. Clark and assisted in the capture of the fort, and many permanently settled here. He enlisted Francis Vigo, a trader at an Indian village upon the site of the present city of St. Louis in the enterprise, and induced him to furnish means to carry it on. Vigo was at the time a zealous and devoted Catholic and a member of Father Gibault's congregation.

Without wishing to detract in the least from the deserved honor due to the men that actively took part in the capture of the fort here, it is due to truth and justice to give honor to whom honor is due. There was no man in the country, except Pierre Gibault, who could accomplish the above enumerated results. Gen. Clark was an entire stranger in the country, and could not be expected to have sufficient influence over a strange people speaking a different language from his own to induce them to enlist voluntarily in a hazardous enterprise through his exertions alone. Vigo was an illiterate, but successful trader among the untutored Indians. He could not at that time write his own name, and never could do it, except mechanically as the parrot learns to say "Pretty Poll." But all these plans, purposes and details were within the range of accomplishment of Pierre Gibault, and to him the merit of success is primarily and principally due.

In August, 1778, it was determined to send a message to Vincennes to apprise the inhabitants of the intended expedition. Father Gibault selected as this messenger his confidential and trusted friend, John Baptiste Laffont. This messenger was well known to Father Gibault and a member of his congregation. Father Gibault solemnized the marriage of his daughter Marie Laffont to Robert McKay, one of the captains appointed to command one of the companies raised at Kaskaskia for the St. Vincent's compaign. Mr. Laffont accordingly went to Vincennes on this mission and carried with him a commission signed by Gen. Clark, dated at Kaskaskia, August 15, 1778, appointing Francois Busseron captain of a company to be raised at Vincennes. This Francois Busseron was a valued friend of Father Gibault and was one of his principal advisers and associates while he was at Vincennes, from 1770 to the date of his expulsion. He was a man of great prominence and influence in the place and was appointed one of the judges of the court by John Todd when he came by authority

of Virginia to organize civil government in the Territory in 1779, and was also appointed one of the judges of the court by Winthrop Sargeant, secretary of the Territory, when he came to organize the territory by authority of the United States in 1790. He was a distinguished pioneer citizen who had been previously appointed captain of a company raised when Father Gibault administered the oath of allegiance to the French inhabitants in the winter of 1778 and was the man who hauled down the British flag over the fort and raised in its stead the red and green serge flag. One of the streets in Vincennes is named in memory of this man. He died in 1791 and was buried in the Catholic cemetery here.

When the force was organized at Kaskaskia to come and capture the fort here it was Pierre Gibault who insisted it should be undertaken at an inclement season of the year when the whole intervening country between Kaskaskia and Vincennes was covered with ice and water. He did this because he knew of the existing condition of the fort here. It was practically unguarded and in total want of supplies of all kinds. These were expected from Canada in the early springtime. Success, therefore, depended upon speedy action before the expected supplies arrived. These matters were all within the knowledge of Pierre Gibault, who was well acquainted with the French inhabitants here, and communication between this place and Kaskaskia was frequent. But these important facts were not known to Gen. Clark or any of the command that accompanied him from the falls of the Ohio to Kaskaskia.

And when the force was fully armed and equipped, ready to proceed to come and capture the fort here, it was Pierre Gibault who gave them cheer and encouragement. Gen. Clark in his report of this expedition, says that when the force was ready to depart from Kaskaskai for the Wabash on February 5, 1779, that Father Gibault appeared before the two Illinois companies he had been instrumental in raising and addressed

them and gave them his blessing. Gen. Clark does not give the substance of the address of Father Gibault to the two Illinois companies on that interesting and momentous occasion. We will supply this omission. The address was delivered in French, but we give the substance of it in English for the benefit of the reader:

"My Dear Brethren and Fellow Citizens:

"You are about to start on a glorious mission, the success of which will cover you with everlasting glory. And of the entire success of it there can be no doubt. The French people residing in the village on the Wabash are animated by the same feelings and impulses as you are. I am well acquainted with them, having resided among them as their pastor from 1770 until I was driven away by the English in the spring of last year. These French people are no friends of the English, and are ready at any favorable opportunity to strike them a deadly blow. They unanimously, at my request, in the winter of 1778, manifested this by renouncing allegiance to the English and taking an oath to support the American cause in the revolution now in progress against the English. You are now going forward to furnish them this opportunity, as you represent the same cause that is now at war with the English. Go then with stout hearts and fearless souls knowing in advance that your efforts will be crowned with complete success. And I specially charge that you do not forget that what you do in this glorious cause is really done in the interest of your beloved France, for which you all feel a deep and abiding affection, as it is your fatherland. And that you may be sustained and cheered on your journey during the wintry weather through snow, water and ice and various hardships and privations you will have to undergo, I will now give you the blessing of a poor Catholic priest for your safety and protection. I now implore our Common Father, without whose knowledge not a sparrow falls to the ground, and who feeds the young ravens when they cry, that He may sustain you, preserve you and crown your mission with success in the name of the Farther, and of the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen."

A representation of this imposing and dramatic scene can be seen in W. H. English's history of the conquest of the Northwest, Vol 1, on page 287.

The expedition started from Kaskaskia on February 5, 1779. How was it that the force made its way through the intervening overflowed and icy ground on the way to Vincennes? Gen. Clark nor any of the men who came with him from the falls of the Ohio River to Kaskaskia had ever been in the country before, and knew nothing of the route to be passed over. This was known, however, to many of the men in the two French companies furnished the expedition at Kaskaskia. Many of them, no doubt, had frequently passed over the route and were familiar with it. Without the aid of these men as guides the force of Gen. Clark could never have successfully threaded its way to the fort here. It is stated in the journal of Major Bowman that when Clark arrived at the Wabash River on his way, with its banks all overflowed, he gave orders to his men to look out for boats and supplies. He was then nine miles below Vincennes at an inclement season of the year, and surrounded on all sides by a miniature sea of water. Why should such an order have been given if there had not been a pre-arrangement that boats and supplies would be furnished him? Why, under all the circumstances, should any sane man expect boats and supplies at that point? The only reason that can be assigned for Clark's order is that boats and supplies had been promised him, and therefore he expected them. Who was it that had promised the boats and supplies? Who could have given such a promise with any reasonable hope of fulfilment? It was not Gen. Clark or any of his command that he brought with him from the falls of the Ohio River. They were all entire strangers in the country and wholly unknown to the inhabitants of Vincennes who were expected to furnish the boats and supplies. It was unquestionably Father Gibault, the only man at that time pos-

sessing the necessary influence to make such a promise with any hope of its fulfillment.

After the force had secured two boats and crossed the Wabash River to the *"Mamelle Hill"* they were nine miles from Vincennes. Between them and the town were the overflowed waters of the Wabash River in places fifteen and even twenty-five feet deep. The intervening space was filled with coulees, ravines, marshes, swamps and morasses. No man unacquainted with the topography of the country could have attempted to pass safely over that space. He would have been drowned in making the attempt. Yet the French inhabitants acquainted with the country could do it safely by wending their way through the waters on the ridges of high ground and reach Vincennes on their little French ponies without wetting their feet. The journal kept by Major Bowman says they met duck hunters who conducted them from the *"Mamelle Hill"* to the sugar camp, and from thence to *"Warriors Island,"* and then by a detour to the south to the high grounds on which Vincennes is situated. This was a very tortuous and circuitous route to take to reach Vincennes from the *"Mamelle Hill."* But it was the only one that could be taken with any chance of reaching Vincennes. Who were the duck hunters spoken of by the writer of the journal? It is not reasonable to suppose that they were really duck hunters from Vincennes in mid-winter with the whole country covered with ice and water, when they could capture all the ducks they wanted without leaving the high grounds upon which the village was situated No; they were not duck hunters, but they were guides that had been provided through the influence of Father Gibault to conduct Gen. Clark and his force to the village. And when they finally reached the village half famished, as they had not taken, according to the journal of Major Bowman, any food for three days, and were wet and tired and foot-sore, what caused the inhabitants of the village to receive an armed force

of strangers with kindness and hospitality and to furnish them needed refreshments? It was unquestionably the influence of their old pastor, Pierre Gibault.

It is well known that the inhabitants acquainted Gen. Clark with the condition of things at the fort, its want of supplies and munitions of war, and that these were daily expected to arrive from Canada. They urged Gen. Clark to commence operations the night of his arrival before the supplies and reinforcements could arrive. Three-fourths of the men who took part in the attack on the old fort were Catholics. It is both reasonable and just to claim that all this was accomplished through the influence of Pierre Gabault. He suggested and planned the expedition, its execution in mid-winter before supplies and reinforcements could arrive, and thus crowned it with success.

After the oath of allegiance to the American cause had been administered to the French inhabitants, Father Gibault succeeded in organizing two companies of French men, one under the command of Francois Busseron, and the other under the command of Capt. Nicholas. Capt. Helm was appointed to take possession of the old fort, which the English had named "Sackville." Its name, when Clark captured it in February, 1779, was again changed to "Fort Patrick Henry." Captain Busseron hauled down the English flag and hoisted in its stead a two-colored flag made of green and red colored serge. For the expense occasioned by the flag, Capt. Busseron presented an account against Capt. Helm which was paid him, of which the following is a copy: "1778 Paid to St. Marie for 5 ells of red serge for the flag, 45c. Paid to Mr. Defonet for 3 3-4 ells of green serge for flag, 37½c. Paid to Mrs. Godare for making the flag, 25c." The facts connected with the hauling down the British flag and hoisting the two-colored flag are proven by papers connected with the estate of Capt. Busseron, now in possession of Hon. Charles B. Lasselle, of Lo-

gansport, Indiana. Capt. Busseron died in 1791, and Antoin Marachall administered on his estate. Upon his death, Hyacinthe Lasselle administered on his estate and came into possession of the papers of the estate of Capt. Busseron, and upon his death Charles B. Lasselle came in possession of his father's papers and has them now. After the capture of the Fort in 1779 by George Rogers Clark, he changed the name of the fort to Fort Patrick Henry, and many accounts and documents concerning the fort after Clark got possession are all dated at "Fort Patrick Henry."

For the part taken by Father Gibault in this transaction, when Hamilton afterwards came with his eighty soldiers and 400 Indian allies and retook the fort he arrested Father Gibault and held him a prisoner for some time, but finally released him on promise that he would leave the place. For this release Gov. Hamilton was censured by the British authorities in Canada on the ground that as Father Gibault was a British subject at the time, living in the territory of that country, he should have been held and tried for treason.

Col. Clark, in a commission dated by him at "Fort Clark," Kaskaskia, August 15, 1778, appointed Francois Busseron captain of a militia company at Post Vincenne, which commission is also in possession of Hon. Charles B. Lasselle, of Logansport, Indiana.

Why was the fort actually captured by Gen. Clark on the 25th of February, 1779? It was not on account of the violence of the attack or any deadly effect produced by it. The firing on the fort began at 5 o'clock, February 24, 1779, and was kept up without intermission until 10 o'clock the next day, and not the least impression had been made on the walls of the fortress, and not a man within its protecting walls had been either killed or wounded. They might have kept up the fusilade with their flint-lock muskets until all their ammunition was exhausted with the same fruitless result. If the fort

had been supplied with ammunition one blast from one of the large cannon within the fortress would have scattered the assaulting force like the early spring flowers are scattered and perish before sheets of desolating wintry storm. It cannot be denied that if Governor Hamilton had possessed ammunition he could have driven off the assailants as easy as the tempest shakes the rain drops from the bending forest. This attack on the old fort with flint-lock muskets without producing any damaging result has always reminded the intelligent reader of the silly attempt of the Chinese to scare off the allied forces under the command of Lord Elgin when they approached Pekin in 1860. They assembled innumerable hordes of Chinese armed with gongs, and by the noise they could make were expected to scare off the allied forces. But the allies were not frightened away. To use the language of Lord Elgin, in his report, "I gave the order to sack and destroy the favorite residence of the emperor, and it would then become a solemn act of retribution. The palaces were cleared of every valuable and their walls destroyed by fire and sword."

How, then, was the capture of the old fort actually accomplished by Gen. Clark on February 25, 1779? It was the want of provisions and ammunition, and the fact that starvation confronted its inmates. It is well known that Gov. Hamilton tried to temporize and seek delay in the hope in the meantime his expected supplies and re-inforcements would arrive. But Gen. Clark prudently refused to give any time. Gov. Hamilton knew he could get no supplies or provisions from the French inhabitants of the village, who were all hostile to his cause. This entire want of provisions and ammunition induced him to hold the conference with Gen. Clark in the old church near the fort, when he signed the following articles of capitulation, February 25, 1779:

"Agreed to for the following reasons: The remoteness from succor, the state and quantity of provisions, etc., the unan-

imity of officers and men in its expediency, the honorable terms allowed, and lastly, the confidence in a generous enemy.

Henry Hamilton,
Lieut.-Governor and Superintendent.

And in consequence of this surrender the flag of Great Britain was lowered and possession of the fort surrendered to Virginia. In this connection the truth of history requires a fanciful incident to be spoiled which has been circulated in this place for many years. It has been said that the American flag was hoisted over the fort after the surrender. If any flag was hoisted it was the flag of Virginia, as Col. Clark was in command of Virginia troops, acting under a commission of the governor of that State. Various French women have been named as having made the Star Spangled Banner that was hoisted. But the Star Spangled Banner had no existence at that date, which was February, 1779. The Star Spangled Banner is a growth rather than a creation. The flags used during the Revolutionary War were the various flags of the several revolted colonies before and after the Declaration of Independence. The Stars and Stripes then had no existence, and after it was adopted underwent many changes before taking the shape at present established. During the revolution each of the colonies had its own flag. That of Virginia was of silk with a heroic figure standing erect and armed, with one foot upon the neck of a prostrate form with the motto, "*Sic Semper Tyrannis.*" If any flag was hoisted at the time over the old fort when it was surrendered to Col. Clark in February, 1779, it was the flag of Virginia. No person in Vincennes, male or female, at that early period, could have made a flag of Virginia. It is probable no flag was raised unless one that Col. Clark brought with him. But it is more reasonable to conclude no flag was raised, the victors being content to haul down the British flag, the emblem of its sovereignty. The date of surrender was before the flag raising

craze had arrived. And why has not the important share borne by Father Gibault in this important affair been properly acknowledged and compensated? This neglect and want of recognition of valuable services rendered by the missionary fathers in the Northwest is in the main due to their own want of desiring any such recognition. A celebrated historian in alluding to this, says:

"The priests on the missions in the Northwest were content to labor and suffer and to leave the record of their deeds to God."

Rev. Pierre Gibault was one of these missionaries and acted upon the principle laid down in the parable as recorded in Luke, chapter 18, verse 14: "I tell you this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased: and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."

He did make a modest request that a small lot in the village of Cahokia should be given him. In reference to this request, Governor St. Clair in his report, dated in 1791, to Mr. Jefferson, secretary of state, says:

"No. 24 is the request of Mr. Gibault for a small lot that has long been in the occupation of the priests at Cahokia, having been assigned them by the French. It is true he was very useful to Gen. Clark upon many occasions, and has suffered very heavy losses. I believe no injury would be done to any one by his request being granted."

This French grant was within the stipulations that all the grants of the French should be respected and confirmed. But this modest and just request of Father Gibault was never granted, and the last years of this distinguished and able man were passed in suffering and poverty. After an active life spent by him for the benefit of his fellow men and his country he had nothing to show for it, not even a house he could call

his own. He could truly say "the birds of the air have nests, and the foxes holes, but I have no place to lay my head."

Judge Law in his address to the Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society, delivered on February 22, 1839, has this to say of Father Gibault:

"Next to Clark and Vigo, the United States are indebted to Father Gibault for the accession of the States comprised within what was the original Northwest Territory more than to any other man."

This address we note was delivered three years, lacking a month, after the death of Col. Vigo, and after he had made a remarkable will and in it confirmed the contract and employment of the judge to prosecute his claim for the supplies he had furnished Gen. Clark against the government, and to take his compensation for his services from the amount allowed by Congress. Why, it may be reasonably asked, did Judge Law thus prefer the sympathetic, sociable but unlettered Sardinian to the magnetic, eloquent and learned Arcadian? Was it the hope that it would hasten and stimulate the passage of the claim before Congress, and thus enable him to get his fees that he felt called upon to magnify the services and claims of Vigo above those of Gibault?

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again,
The eternal years of God are hers;
But error wounded, writhes with pain,
And dies among her worshippers."

These missionary priests who labored on the missions in the Northwest were in the world but not of the world. They labored not for the transitory things of earth, but for the nobler and better things pertaining to eternity. They passed quietly through the turbulent scenes of this unfriendly world and found a final resting place in unknown and unmarked graves. But in the final day the great "I am" will call them

forth from their solitude clothed in robes of immortality to receive golden harps and crowns of glory.

"Softly and noiselessly some feet tread,
Lone ways on earth without leaving a mark;
They move 'mid the living, they pass to the dead
As still as the gleam of a star thro the dark,
Lonely and hiddenly in the world
Tho in the world 'tis their lot to stay
The tremulous wings of their hearts are furled
Until they fly from the world away
And find their rest
On our Father's breast
Where earths unknown shall be known the best,
And the hidden heart shall be brightest, best."

It has been frequently said that Republics are ungrateful. The truth of this trite saying is forcibly illustrated by the treatment of the Federal Government towards three men, who, above all others, were the main instruments in wresting from England the territory northwest of the River Ohio, and thereby paving the way for its ultimate acquisition through Virginia of that vast and fertile country out of which the five rich and populous States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin have been carved and added to the sisterhood of States. The three men alluded to are Pierre Gibault, George Rogers Clark and Francis Vigo. They all went to their graves in a very similar condition, and all present a parallel of government neglect in consideration of patriotic and valuable services rendered the government without a counterpart in the annals of history.

Rev. Pierre Gibault was a French missionary Catholic priest that spent his entire life after completing his education in laboring incessantly for the good of his fellow men in the wilderness of the northwest. He was finely educated, of commanding presence, superior oratorical powers and possessed magnetic qualities. He exercised unbounded influence

over the inhabitants of the entire country, as he had visited and ministered at all the mission stations in the country. The inhabitants were almost exclusively French or of French descent, and Catholics. From 1770 to 1790 his influence over the inhabitants was unlimited. He was the ablest man in the country at that time. He did more to have the Northwest Territory severed from England than any other man. It may be claimed with much reason that the expeditions that culminated in the conquest of the northwest was inspired by him in consequence of information furnished by him to some of the many distinguished French officers who came over and assisted the colonies in the war for independence. The British authorities in Canada in an official report made in 1778, make special reference to him as being the most learned, influential and dangerous enemy of British interests of any man that had appeared in the northwest. And all he did was done at great personal risk, as he was claimed by the English to be a British subject, and also at heavy pecuniary loss. His great services were often acknowledged in official reports of various kinds and never questioned. Compensations for his loss and valuable services were promised, but the promises were never fulfilled. After a life of toil and privation in the wilderness he contracted bodily infirmities incident to his arduous labors. But he was permitted by the Government to spend the last days of his life in suffering and want without even a house he could call his own, and his remains, after death, were buried in a country grave-yard and his grave remains to this day unmarked and he sleeps his last

"Sleep unmarked
Even by such slight memento as the hind
Carves on his own coarse tombstone."

George Rogers Clark, the hero and patroit and active mechanical instrument in the acquisition of the territory,

through whose courage, indomitable will and stubborn determination to accomplish his purpose regardless of opposition or danger survived his brilliant achievements in the northwest thirty-nine years. He died at Locust Grove, near Louisville, Kentucky, February 13, 1818. He was buried in a country grave-yard February 18, 1818. The last years of the life of this hero and patroit were also spent in penury and pain. He depended upon the charity of friends for even the necessaries of life. He suffered before his death a paralytic stroke, and to save his life his left leg was amputated above the knee. In this distressed and disabled physical condition he lingered many years before his death. He petitioned Congress for a small appropriation of money to sustain him in his declining years. The appropriation was never made in his lifetime, and never, so far as I know, but which if ever granted did him no benefit, and went to collateral relatives who had not come to his relief in his hour of distress. He was never married and left no issue. His remains, after his death, remained neglected for over fifty years in the country grave-yard where he was buried among many others. No mark was placed over his grave to indicate the place of interment. Here they remained until private persons, in 1869, determined to disinter them and give them proper sepulture, in Cave Hill cemetery, adjoining Louisville, Ky. Great difficulty was experienced in finding his remains. Seven or eight bodies were dug up in the quest, and finally they were found and identified, by the want of his left leg, which had been amputated above the knee. And thus over fifty years after the death of this hero and patroit his remains were transferred from the lonely country grave-yard and buried on October 29, 1869, in Cave Hill cemetery, that beautiful city of the dead, and a suitable monument erected over his grave.

I will conclude this brief review of the last days and burial

of Gen. Clark by slightly changing and then adopting the poetic sentiment of Shakespeare, viz:

> O, my country! my country!
> Had I served my God with half the zeal
> I have served thee, he would not in mine age
> Have left me naked, like a shattered
> Bark on the stream of time.

Francis Vigo, a Sardinian by birth and a successful Indian trader, was located in 1778 at the site on the Mississippi River where the present city of St. Louis now stands. He was a zealous Catholic at the time and was a member of the congregation of Father Gibault. He was induced by the request and influence of his pastor to furnish the necessary means to accomplish the conquest of the fort at St. Vincent, where the present city of Vincennes now stands. He survived the successful capture of the fort, for the accomplishment of which he had contributed so much, for over sixty years. The last years of his life were spent in Vincennes. He died March 22, 1836, after a long and lingering illness, and for many years before his death was in actual want of even the necessaries of life and was in reality a pensioner on the charity of the public. He petitioned Congress to allow him in his destitute condition the money advanced by him to aid the expedition to capture the fort at this place. But this just claim, although its payment was made a part of the consideration to be paid by Congress for the cession by Virginia to the Federal Government, was never paid by the Government during the life of Col. Vigo. He died without issue or any known relatives by blood, and the amount allowed by the Government forty years after his death went to relatives of his childless wife who did not come to his relief during his life and in the hour of his distress. He was buried in the public cemetery of Vincennes by charity at public expense, so far as any expense attending his funeral was concerned. The only expense of his funeral ever

paid was twenty dollars for his plain coffin, which was not paid until forty years after his death. He was awarded a military funeral with the honors of war, and the evening of his funeral, which the author attended, was spent in firing cannon over his grave. But this military display did no good for the hero and patroit, as his spirit had taken its flight and his body had been buried to return to dust from whence it came. He was buried in the public cemetery, as already stated, and no mark or monument was erected over his grave to mark his last resting place for many years after his death. After the lapse of many years some unknown person caused a plain, small slab of stone to be laid on the top of his grave, but so long after his death that the date thereof had been forgotten and an erroneous date of his death carved on the small stone lying flat on the grave. And there he yet lies in a neglected grave except when the Grand Army of the Republic on Memorial day scatters flowers over the graves of the heroic dead.

"Sic transit gloria mundi."

CHAPTER XIV.

FIRE PROTECTION.

For many years after Vincennes was settled there was no provision made of any kind for the extinguishment of fires. If a fire broke out in any part of the town it was left to be fought by its inmates and their neighbors, with such appliances as could be readily procured for use. This condition of affairs and want of preparation in case of emergency, continued to exist long after municipal organization had taken place in 1807. The old Borough of Vincennes took no immediate step in the direction of aiding in the extinguishment of fires or providing any appliances for that purpose. This total neglect of fire protection on the part of the borough authorities, was in part due to the fact, that no necessity was felt, as the place had never been visited by any destructive fire. But with the increase of population this could not long continue. In 1819, the borough trustees passed an ordinance to provide six fire hooks and six ladders thirty feet long, and required every family to provide itself with two two gallon leather buckets. These buckets were to be kept by the inhabitants at their homes and brought by them to any fire that might occur. But many families failed to provide the buckets, many were lost or destroyed and many failed to bring their buckets to a fire. In case of a fire where these buckets were to be used, two lines were formed reaching to some water supply. Along one the empty buckets were passed to be filled with water and along the other the buckets when filled were passed to be used at the fire. This arrangement was very imperfect. If the fire was not near a water supply, it was practically useless. In consequence of a destructive fire which broke out in the store of George Cruikshank & Co., situated midway on the northeast side of Main street between

First and Second streets, which entirely consumed all the buildings on the square except the storeroom of William Burtch on the corner of First street and the storeroom of Thomas Bishop on the corner of Second street, the borough authorities were aroused to the necessity of providing better protection for the town. A hand fire engine was purchased from Philadelphia and a volunteer fire company was organized to use it. A building was erected on the alley adjoining the City Hall fronting on Main street. This company existed for many years and was the only fire company organized for the extinguishment of fires. Frederick A. Reiley was employed to take care of this engine, and keep it in order. As this company could not afford satisfactory fire protection, another hand engine was purchased, and a house erected for it about midway on the southwest side of Broadway between Third and Fourth streets, and another volunteer fire company was organized for its use. James A. Plummer was employed to take charge of this engine and keep it in order. There existed between these two volunteer companies great rivalry as they each wished to be useful and to be the first at a fire and throw the first water on any fire. On this account many skirmishes took place between the members of the two volunteer companies as to which one should have possession of the cistern or other water supply and during the struggle between them, the burning building was entirely lost sight of. But these two volunteer fire companies, although the members used their utmost exertions to extinguish all fires that occurred, did but very little good. The members being scattered at their homes or places of business in case of a fire alarm, took some time for a sufficient number to arrive at the engine house, locate the place of the fire and to be in sufficient force to enable them to move the engine and other apparatus to the fire. The result was that when they arrived at the fire, it had progressed so far as to be beyond relief and all

the fire companies could do was to endeavor to save adjoining property. And although as stated, the two fire companies used their best endeavors to extinguish a fire, it is not recorded that they ever succeeded in saving any building that took fire, but it must be said to their credit they always succeeded in saving the lot upon which the house stood.

In view of the imperfect protection in case of fires provided by the hand engines and the volunteer fire companies, the city council on the 17th January, 1870, passed an ordinance for the employment of a paid fire department. A steam fire engine was purchased and it was thought that there was nothing in the way of fire protection that was not then provided. It was in fact claimed that "ne plus ultra" could be devised. This steam fire engine was certainly a great advance over all previous attempts to provide means for the extinguishment of fires. But in view of the admirable system that has since been provided and now in existence, this steam engine was as much behind the times in comparison with the present system as the different systems that had preceded it.

In 1886 the city council authorized the construction of water works for the city. Under this ordinance a complete water supply has been obtained for the use of the citizens and of the fire department. The water works plant erected has no superior in any city in the state. The water tower is over two hundred feet high and affords ample pressure to enable the fire companies to throw several streams of water at the same time over the highest buildings in the city, no matter where they may be located. And in connection with a perfect system of electric fire alarms, that has been also provided, the city is as adequately and perfectly provided with fire protection as possible. Under the present fire system three companies have been formed and houses erected for the reception of the apparatus. These houses are situated in different quarters of the city so that one company will be near the location of any fire that may take place in any part of the city. Fire

Company No. 1 is located in a brick building on Fourth street, midway between Main and Vigo streets, of which company J. J. Anderson is captain. This company is also provided with a Babcock fire extinguisher and the most improved and perfect hook and ladder appliances manufactured. Company No. 2 is located in a brick building on the corner of Sixth and Harrison streets and James J. Hedden is the captain. Company No. 3 is located in a brick building on the corner of Second street and Railroad avenue and Henry H. Miller is captain. The chief engineer of the entire fire department of the city is George Fendrich, who has been retained in that position for many years, until he has become perfectly familiar with all the details of his position. And the fire department as now organized is ready at a moment's warning to commence operations on any fire that may break out in any quarter of the city and as often happens, the fire department will be on hand to fight the fire before the immediate neighbors are aware of its existence and in some cases before the inmates of the house know it is on fire.

It is not probable that any fire that may occur in any part of the city will have any show or chance of success when confronted by our efficient and faithful firemen. The alarm of fire now occasions no confusion or misgiving in the minds of our citizens, and very few go to it, only asking where it is located. They all feel that the fire department will pay its respects to the destroying element and prevent any serious result.

In view of this the citizens of Vincennes now feel perfectly secure and think their residences and business houses are perfectly secure from destruction by fire so far as it is possible for human agencies to secure them. This security acts as a stimulant to encourage and promote the building up of the city in full confidence that what they build will sustain no loss by fire.

CHAPTER XV.

Religion.

The first mention must be made to St. Francis Xavier church because it was first in point of time. It was founded in 1702. It is stated in the Quebec annals that many Indian converts assisted in its erection. It was built of timbers set on end and the interstices filled with adobe. It had a dirt floor, benches and a rude altar. It had no windows or opening except the door in the northwest end facing the fort. The second log church was built at the request of Father Gibault. In a letter to the Bishop of Quebec, dated May 1785, he writes: "A new log church 90 by 42 feet has been built and the old church has been fitted up for my use as a pastoral residence." This second church remained standing until the present brick church was roofed over. It was then torn down about 1830. The present brick church was projected by Rev. J. B. Champomier in 1825. He succeeded in raising funds for its erection and on March 4th, 1826, published notice in the Western Sun that the corner stone would be laid on March 30, 1826. The walls of the church and the roof were completed by the time Bishop Brute came in 1834. The church has been finished by different bishops, but was not fully completed until 1850. There have been five bishops connected with this church. Bishops Brute, Hailandiere, Bazin, St. Palais and Chatard. The four first are dead and their remains are deposited in the basement chapel of the cathedral. Bishop Chatard is the present bishop. His residence and the name of the diocese has been changed to that of "Indianapolis."

The following persons have been pastors of this church:

CATHEDRAL CHURCH.

METHODIST CHURCH.

John Mermet, Antoninus Senat, Mercurin Conic, Sebastian Louis Meurin, Pierre Du Jaunay, Louis Vivier, Julian Duvernay, Pierre Gibault, Louis Payet, Benedict J. Flaget, Michael Levadoux, John F. Rivet, Donatieu Oliver, G. J. Chabrat, Joseph Rosati, John B. Aquironi, Anthony Blanc, Augustus Jean Jeans, A. Ferrari, M. Dohmen, John B. Champomier, S. P. Lalumiere, Louis N. Petit, Anthony Parret, L. Picot, John Corbe, Celestine Hailandiere, August Martin, Michael E. Shawe, Ernest Andrau, John Contin, Bede O'Connor, John Gueguen, Hugh Peythieu, James Stremler and Louis Gueguen.

Of the above pastors seven have reached high positions in the church. Benedict J. Flaget, Bishop of Bardstown; Anthony Blanc, Archbishop of New Orleans; G. J. Chabrat, Bishop of Louisville; August Martin, Bishop of Nachitoches; Joseph Rosati, Bishop of St. Louis; Celestine Hailandiere Bishop of Vincennes.

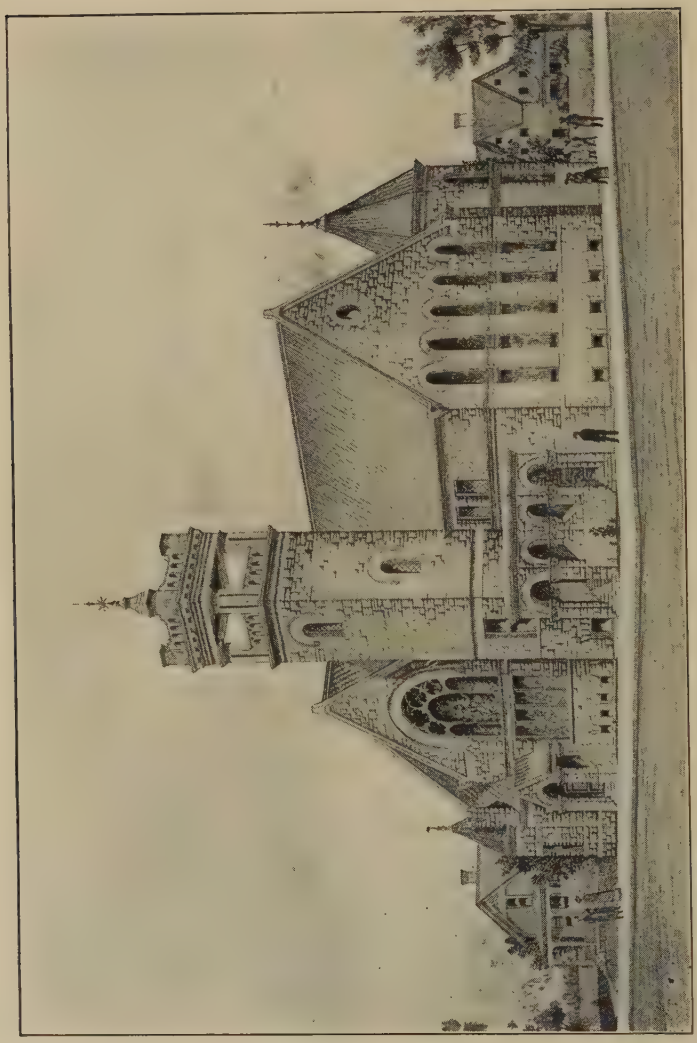
The congregation now comprises five hundred families with a membership of over fifteen hunderd members.

The Methodist church was founded here April 18, 1828. Before that time itinerant ministers of that denomination, occasionally visited the place and held services. The first of these was Rev. Mr. Winans, who was here in 1808. The next was John M. Baker in 1810, then Thomas Stillwell in 1811, James Turner in 1812, Richard Richardson in 1813, Zachariah Chilton in 1814, John Shrader in 1815, Thomas Davis in 1816, James McCord in 1817, Charles Slocum in 1817, John McCord in 1818. But all the above came of their own volition without the appointment of any authority of the church and made only passing visits of short duration. During the time of the visits of the above ministers there was no congregation here and no church building. On April 18, 1828, steps were taken to form a congregation and a lot on the corner of Third and Buntin streets was purchased and a brick

church erected on the lot. This church was enlarged and improved from time to time and was used by the congregation until the present new stone church was ready for use in 1900. Several years previous to this a fine lot in one of the choicest locations in the city on the corner of Fourth and Perry streets, was purchased. Upon this lot the congregation erected a fine durable stone church which will last for centuries, and it is now used by the congregation. The corner stone of this stone church was laid by Bishop Fowler, April 17, 1899, and it was dedicated by Bishop McCabe, April 1, 1900. I give from recollection the names of the following pastors of the church: Elijah Whitten, Aaron Wood, John W. Jackson, William McK. Hester, W. H. Grim, Mr. Walker, Mr. Clippinger and Mr. Willis, the present incumbent.

The Presbyterian church was founded here in 1833. Before that date the Presbyterians had services at the two Indiana churches in the country about four miles east of the town. In 1806 Samuel B. Robertson of Kentucky, came here and organized the church in the country. He was succeeded by Samuel T. Scott in 1807. He was succeeded by Samuel R. Alexander, who continued to preach for many years. Before 1833 the Presbyterians of Vincennes held religious services either in private houses or the Court House and occasionally attended the upper or lower Indiana churches in the country. But on January 5, 1833, which date is the real founding of the church, the following persons organized a church in town. John Bruner, Samuel Harris, Lidia Harris, Samuel Smith, James Kuykendall, Sarah Hay, Patsy Hill, Elizabeth Decker, Mrs. Shadduck, John McGiffin, Elizabeth Wyant, Minerva Roseman, Andrew Graham, Mrs. Graham, Elizabeth Graham, Jane Shuler, Mr. Driatt, Francis Bruner, Joseph Maddox, Mary Small, Elizabeth Smith, Catharine Kuykendall, J. D. Hay, R. Dooley, Elizabeth McCall, William R. McCall, John C. Holland, Elias Beedle, Hannah Wise, Mrs. Lucree and Mrs.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Nycewanger. A lot on the corner of Fifth and Busseron streets was donated by Mr. Bruner and a brick church was erected on it. This church was remodelled from time to time and continued to be used by the congregation until 1862, when a division took place and a portion ceceded and built a brick church on the corner of Main and Sixth streets. This division was subsequently harmonized and the two congregations united. A fine new church was erected on the old location in 1884, but was not completed according to plans until 1898. The church as it stands today is in appearance the finest church building in Vincennes. The pastors of the Presbyterian church have been: W. W. Martin, John McNair, Thomas Alexander, Samuel R. Alexander, John F. Smith, John W. Blythe, J. F. Jennison, Eli B. Smith, John F. Hendy, Joseph Vance, E. P. Whallen, George Knox and Dr. Hunter, the present pastor.

The Christian church was organized in 1833. The first members of the church were: Henry D. Wheeler and wife, Mrs. Harriet Judah, Dr. John R. Mantle and Stephen Burnet. The congregation worshipped in private houses and in the Town Hall until 1846, when a lot was purchased on Second street and a brick church erected. The first trustees of the church were Henry D. Wheeler, John R. Mantle and Alphens Draper. In 1878, the church building was improved by an addition in front and a tower and subsequently a baptistry and pastoral residence were erected. In 1901, Clarence B. Kessinger, one of the members, donated to the congregation a lot on the corner of Third and Broadway streets, upon which it is intended to erect a fine church at an early day. The funds for this purpose are being rapidly gathered. The following persons have been pastors of this church: Elijah Goodwin, P. K. Dibble, I. M. Mathews, W. W. Eccles, O. A. Bartholomew, T. T. Holton, W. H. Tiller, Thomas J.

Clark, W. Corter and W. Oestricher. It has a membership of 500.

The parish of St. James of the Episcopal church was organized by Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper, October 27, 1839. The following members were elected vestry men: George Davis, George Cruikshank, John Cruikshank, James W. Greenhow, Samuel Langdon, Abner T. Ellis and Joseph Somes. George Davis and James W. Greenhow were chosen wardens. Joseph Somes, treasurer and George W. Rathbone, clerk of the vestry. The use of the Town Hall was obtained and fitted up as a place of worship. Services were commenced to be held in the Town Hall on the 5th February, 1840, and were continued to be held there until August, 1843. A lot was purchased on the corner of Fourth and Busseron streets and on this lot a brick church was erected in 1843, and has been improved from time to time by additions and improvements until it is at present a very imposing church edifice. This church was founded in 1841 and dedicated in August, 1843, by Rev. B. B. Killikelly, D. D., who was the first rector. The following other persons have been pastors of the church: Foster Thayer, Mr. Carter, Mr. Roberts, Dr. Austin and De Lou Burke.

The African Methodist Episcopal church was organized about 1845 by Rev. W. F. Quinn. The first members of the church were: Samuel Clark, Cornelius Sims, A. McGill, James Brunswick, William Johnson, Mary Johnson, Henry Rider, Anna Rider, T. Paryear and H. H. Stewart. Services were first held at the residences of the members. But in 1850 a frame church was erected on the corner of Tenth and Buntin streets. This was succeeded in 1875 by a brick church on the same lot. The following persons have been pastors of this church: Daniel Winslow, G. W. Johnson, Robert Johnson, James Curtis, Robert Jones, W. R. Revels, Benjamin Hill, Emanuel Williamson, John Turner, B. L. Brook, Levi W. Bass, Thomas Strotter, H. C. Nelson, Madison Pattison, G.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH.

W. Black. William Jackson, H. B. Smith, J. H. Alexander, J. S. Lewis, Jesse Bass, H. H. Wilson, J. R. Ferguson and Jason Bundy.

The African Baptist church was organized here about 1860. A frame church was erected for the congregation on Tenth street and has been occupied by the congregation until the present time.

St. John's Catholic church was organized in 1851. Prior to that time the German Catholics of Vincennes worshipped at the cathedral. They were served by Charles Opperman in 1846 and afterwards by Conrad Sneiderjeans. In 1851 Nicholas Strauber built the first church of brick on Main street between Eighth and Ninth streets. He was succeeded by Leonard Brandt, and he by William Engeln, who remained until 1863. Rev. Aegidius Merz took charge in September, 1863, and remained until his death in 1897. He made many additions and improvements to the church and also built a pastoral residence and a large school building all of brick. The church property of this congregation, considering its fine location and surroundings, is unquestionably the finest church property in the city. The congregation is also the largest in the city. The present rector is Rev. Meinrad Fleischmann.

St. John's Lutheran church for a number of years held services in the Town Hall. A brick church was built on the corner of Eighth and Scott streets and was used for some years by the Lutheran and Evangelical churches jointly. But in 1859 a division of the congregations took place and the Lutherans remained in possession of the church property paying the Evangelical branch a consideration agreed upon for their interest. The present congregation was organized August 29, 1859, by Rev. Peter Senel. He was succeeded by J. D. F. Mayer and he by J. W. Mueller. Carl Kretzman is the present pastor. The first brick church was torn down in 1876 and the present substantial edifice erected in its stead. This

congregation has a large school building and maintains a flourishing school for boys and girls, and the church is in a flourishing condition.

St. John's Evangelical church was organized on the separation of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran church in August, 1859, by Rev. C. Hoffmeister. The leading members of the church at the time of organization were: John Hamm, Frederick, Peter and William Ritterskamp, Jacob Breuhans, Louis Bonsil and August Kircher. A frame church was erected in 1862 on the corner of Fifth and Scott streets and occupied by the congregation until the erection of the splendid brick structure on the corner of Fifth and Shelby streets which is an architectural ornament to the city. This congregation has a large and commodious pastoral residence and a fine school building and maintains schools for both boys and girls. This congregation is in a flourishing condition. The following have been pastors of this church: C. Hoffmeister, F. Darlitz, William Jung, N. Burkhart, P. Weber, Albert Schorey and Henry Mehl.

The Baptist church was organized in 1860. Meetings were first held in the City Hall and in private residences. The church was formally organized May 1, 1862, with the following membership: Mrs. Mary S. Heberd, Mrs. Buck, Mrs. Flora, Mrs. Augustus J. Wise, Miss L. Duree, Miss M. Gillespie, Mrs. L. Gillespie, Rev. J. S. Gillespie and Christian Rallen. A lot was purchased on the corner of Fifth and Broadway streets, and a frame church erected on it which has been used ever since by the congregation. The following persons have been pastors of this church: J. S. Gillespie, L. D. Robinson, B. F. Cavins, Dr. Stinson, A. Brandenburg, I. H. Butler, T. J. Keith, James E. Wolford and G. W. Law.

St. Rose Chapel in connection with St. Rose Female Academy has a fine place of worship on the corner of Fifth and Seminary streets. This chapel is regularly attended every day

LUTHERAN CHURCH.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

BAPTIST CHURCH.

by the clergy attached to St. Francis Xavier church.

The Baptist congregation divided a few years ago and a portion separated from the main body and formed a new congregation called the Immanuel Holiness Baptist church. Rev. Thomas J. Keith is pastor of this congregation and regular services are held in the old Presbyterian church on Main street.

The Free Methodist church has a frame building on the corner of Fourth and Sycamore streets and regular services are held there on Sundays. Enos C. Reeves is the pastor.

The B'nai Israel congregation of the Hebrews have a congregation and hold regular services on the corner of Seventh and Broadway streets, on the second Sunday of each month. The congregation is wealthy and will erect a synagogue in a short time. M. Rindskopf and Victor Schornfeld are trustees and B. Kuhn, treasurer of the congregation.

CHAPTER XVI.

FINANCE.

Vincennes has always been supplied with a sufficient number of banking institutions. The Bank of Vincennes was incorporated by the Territorial Legislature. This bank was organized by Nathaniel Ewing, Charles Smith and others. It continued to do business until the state government was organized. By an act of the state legislature it was adopted as the State Bank of Indiana. This bank failed in 1824.

The Wabash Insurance Company was organized here and was invested with banking privileges and issued notes to circulate as money. Joseph Somes was secretary of this institution.

A branch of the State Bank of Indiana was located here in 1834 on the organization of the State Bank of Indiana. John Ross was cashier of this branch from its organization until it ceased to exist upon the expiration of the charter of the State Bank of Indiana. This branch and all the branches of the State Bank of Indiana were honestly and prudently managed and were a source of profit to the stockholders.

The New York Stock Bank was organized here in 1855 under the law passed by the legislature of Indiana, providing for the formation of Stock Banks. These banks were required by the law to deposit with the Auditor of State the stocks of any state in the Union and receive circulating notes to the face value of the securities less ten per cent. The defect in this law was that the bonds of some of the states were not of equal value and some only worth fifty cents on the dollar. This bank, as its name implies, was supposed to be founded on the bonds of New York state which were above par. In

fact, it was founded on the stock of the State of Mississippi, which were worth only about fifty cents on the dollar. The capital of this bank was $500,000. It was soon forced out of existence.

On the expiration of the charter of the State Bank of Indiana, the legislature passed a law in 1855, creating the Bank of the State of Indiana with branches. A branch of this bank was located here and John Ross was elected cashier and prudently managed this branch until it went out of existence. This bank secured a large line of business and had the entire confidence of the community and would have successfully continued in business, but was taxed out of existence by the United States laws, passed in the interest and for the benefit of the National Bank system.

The Vincennes National Bank was organized as the successor and principally with the capital of the Vincennes branch of the Bank of the State of Indiana. The capital of this branch when first organized, was $250,000, but was subsequently reduced to $100,000. This branch for a number of years while it was under the management and control of John Ross and Wilson J. Williams, did a fine and legitimate business. But it passed from their control by reason of their death and failed in July, 1893. It passed into the hands of Thomas R. Paxton of Princeton, who was appointed by the Controller of the Currency Receiver of the defunct bank. It was found to be a very bad failure. The stockholders were compelled to pay in addition to the loss of their stock, an amount equal thereto to pay the debts and liabilities of the bank. The officers at the time of its failure were Wilson M. Tyler, president; and Hiram A. Foulk, cashier.

The first private bank organized here was the Vincennes Deposit Bank of R. J. McKenney & Co. It was organized in September, 1867 by Richard J. McKenney, Peter E. LaPlante, Hiram A. Foulk, William Heberd, Ulysses Heberd and

Henry S. Cauthorn, on a capital of $25,000, which was subsequently increased to $50,000. This was simply a private partnership for banking purposes and did a very large and lucrative business until 1879, when it went into voluntary liquidation. Richard J. McKenney was the business manager of this partnership from its opening to its close.

The German Banking Company was organized here in 1871 by Henry Knirihm, Louis L. Watson, Joseph L. Bayard, Marcelle D. Lacroix and others with a capital of $50,000. This was simply a partnership for banking purposes and did a large and profitable business. Joseph L. Bayard was cashier and manager of this business from its organization and during its existence. This banking company went out of business and the partners interested organized in its stead, the First National Bank of Vincennes with its capital. John H. Rabb was elected president of this bank and Joseph L. Bayard, cashier.

The banks now doing business in the City of Vincennes are three. The First National Bank, the Second National Bank and the German National Bank. The First National Bank with a capital of $100,000 and a large surplus, was organized in 1871, as the successor of the German Banking Company, and succeeded to its business house and business. On the expiration of its first charter the bank was re-organized as it exists today. The present officers of this bank are Joseph L. Bayard, president; P. M. O'Donnell, cashier; and Henry Somes, Jr., assistant cashier.

The Second National Bank was organized in 1893, with a capital of $100,000, and has been doing a safe and profitable business ever since its organization. The officers of this bank are George W. Donaldson, president; William J. Freeman, cashier; J. T. Boyd, assistant cashier.

The German National Bank was organized in 1888 with a capital of $100,000 and immediately secured a large line of

deposits and has from the start done a lucrative and prosperous business. The officers of this bank are William Baker, president; Gerard Reiter, vice-president; George R. Alsop, cashier; Henry J. Boechman, assistant cashier.

All three of the above National Banks are prudently and honestly managed and have the confidence of the entire community. In consequence they are all doing a heavy and prosperous business.

I here insert the consolidated condition of the First National Bank, the Second National Bank and the German National Bank as indicated by their reports under the call of the comptroller of the currency at the close of business on February 25, 1902:

Loans and Discounts	$1,574,870 49
Deposits	2,684,183 41
Resources	3,873,632 94

We doubt whether there is another city of the population of Vincennes that can show as strong banking facilities as these.

CHAPTER XVII.

CORPORATIONS.

Vincennes has originated many corporations in the past. The Vincennes Steam Mill Company organized August 6, 1817, for the manufacture of flour, lumber and spirits, was started on a grand scale on the survey now occupied in part by Harrison Park. This company erected extensive and substantial buildings and for many years did a large and prosperous business. Nathaniel Ewing, John D. Hay, Willis Fellows and Benjamin Parke, were members of this corporation. The Wabash Insurance Company possessing also banking privileges in addition to general insurance. The Knox Insurance Company organized about 1850, for a time, did a large business and would have continued except for extending its business to marine risks on the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, which so increased its losses as to compel it to go into liquidation. The American Live Stock Insurance Company, the first one of the kind ever organized anywhere for the insurance of live stock. These corporations have all passed away.

The corporations yet in existence in the city are the following:

The Vincennes University, organized in 1806, under an act of the territorial legislature, is now in a flourishing condition and doing as good educational work as any similar institution in the state. It originally possessed a large donation of lands granted by the United States for the purpose of endowment. It started out with bright prospects, but its advance was retarded by the unjust attempt of the state legislaure to rob it of its donation of land and divert the same to the use of the

Indiana University at Bloomington. This legislation is consistent with all state legislation which has never been favorable, but inimical to Vincennes. But this unlawful misappropriation of its lands was partially prevented by the Supreme court of the United States which declared this action of the state legislature to be unlawful and void. But the university was crippled in its operations for years. But it weathered this storm of unfriendly legislation and is yet as successfully performing its work as any university in the state, not excepting the State University, supported as it is by large appropriations and endowment funds from the state treasury.

The Vincennes Board of Trade, organized for the purpose of aiding and building up the city in every way, is doing good service. If such an organization had been in existence years before, it would have been of great advantage to this city.

The Home Building and Loan Association, incorporated in 1893 with a capital of $200,000.

The Knox Building Loan Fund and Savings Association, incorporated in 1883 with a capital of $1,000,000.

The Peoples' Savings Loan and Building Association, incorporated in 1889 with a capital of $1,000,000.

The Vincennes and Knox County Building and Loan Fund Association, incorporated in 1890 with a capital of $1,000,000.

The Wabash Building and Loan Fund Association, incorporated in 1898 with a capital of $500,000.

The Prospect Hill Coal Mining Company, operating mines adjoining the city.

The Prospect Hill Brick Yard Company, operating works in the immediate vicinity of the city.

The Vincennes Mutual Fire Insurance Company, organized for the purpose of insuring such property only as is situated within the city limits.

The Wabash Mutual Benefit Association, The Knox County

Agricultural and Mechanical Association, organized in 1870, and which has already held thirty-one successful fairs, almost equalling the state fairs of Indiana.

The Vincennes Gas Light Company, originally organized in 1859 by Charles P. McGrady, Nathaniel Usher, W. H. H. Terrell, under a twenty years' franchise. This company and its property was merged in the Citizens' Gas Light Company which is yet in existence and doing a fine business.

The Vincennes Electric Light and Power company, organized in 1891, and which has a fine plant and is doing a fine business.

The City Electric Lighting Company, organized in 1899, and which has erected a fine plant and under a contract with the city, is now lighting it in all its parts, all night and every night.

The Central Foundry Company, for the manufacture of soil pipe, is the second largest establishment of the kind in the United States and has very extensive works and employs a large force of men.

The Central Union Telephone Company has a complete plant making connections with all parts of the city, and in connection with the long distance telephone company with all parts of the United States.

The Vincennes Citizens' Street Railway Company which manufactures its own electric power and operates a railway extending from the principal business portions of the city, and to the adjoining suburbs.

The Vincennes Water Supply Company, with a splendid plant and the highest water tower in the west (except one at Cleveland) being 210 feet high and of a capacity sufficient to throw several streams of water at the same time over the highest buildings in the city.

The Citizens' Gas Light Company with a fine plant and doing a successful business.

The Vincennes Egg Case Company doing a large and increasing business.

The Vincennes Paper Mill Company with the most improved machinery and with a large capacity for the manufacture of paper, and running both day and night to supply the demand for its product.

The John Ebner Ice Company having a large plant and capable of manufacting 200 tons of ice each day.

The Eagle Brewing Company of Hack & Simon, manufacturing the finest beer of any establishment in the state and furnishing its product to the city and surrounding towns.

CHAPTER XVIII.

AGRICULTURE.

No city can expect to attract and retain a dense population without adequate resources. They must have a sure base upon which to depend to supply the wants of the citizens. Vincennes in this regard is highly favored by its location and surroundings. Situated in one of the finest agricultural localities in the West, it has in its favor that paramount interest which is the corner-stone upon which rests all enterprizes. The county of Knox in Indiana, and Lawrence in Illinois, are directly tributary to this city, and several other counties in both States to a great extent. The report of the state geologist gives the first place to Knox county as possessing soil suitable for the production of all kinds of fruit, grain and other products that go to make up the general volume of agricultural resources. This great interest has been in the past what has sustained and built up Vincennes. The citizens of Vincennes for many years paid no attention to manufacturing interests, and consequently until within a few years past there were no manufacturing establishments in the city. It has been sustained solely by its unrivalled agricultural resources. There are yet in Knox and Lawrence counties rich and productive lands that can be purchased for less money than many less valuable lands in portions of the far west where there are no school houses, churches, roads and other accompaniments of civilization. The reason the lands in this vicinity have been overlooked by the ceaseless flow of emigration is because they have not been advertised by railroad and other companies as other lands in less favored regions have been. Besides agriculture in the vicinity of Vincennes is yet in its infancy. Although an old settled region, for many years but little attention was paid to developing and improving the agricultural

resources of which it is capable. Large tracts of fertile and productive lands in Knox county were suffered to remain until within a few years past uncleared and unproductive. Other tracts were covered with swamps and marshes. And other lands on both the Wabash and White Rivers bottoms were practically valueless on account of the overflow of these rivers. But enterprise and industry in the last twenty years has remedied this. The rivers have been levied and the wet lands drained and rendered fit for cultivation. This good work is still in progress and the time not far distant when all the lands surrounding Vincennes will be a veritable garden. The roads of the country have been greatly improved and others are now in progress which will make Vincennes accessible at all seasons from all parts of the surrounding country over fine and durable roads.

The following tables extracted from the official statistical report of the State of Indiana for 1898, the latest report accessible, shows a gratifying result for Knox county, in which Vincennes is situated, in comparison with eleven other of the largest and most prosperous counties in the State for the production of the principal sources of the farmers' wealth:

WHEAT.

COUNTY	ACREAGE	BUSHELS	AVERAGE PER ACRE
Knox	67,720	1,015,800	45
Green	23,546	353,100	15
Sullivan	33,680	538,880	16
Davies	11,816	153,608	13
Pike	40,761	652,176	16
Gibson	73,245	1,098,675	15
Allen	40,232	804,640	20
Elkhart	52,574	893,758	17
St. Joseph	55,981	839,715	15
Laporte	48,177	867,186	18
Montgomery	55,715	891,140	16
Tippecanoe	58,855	1,000,718	17

HOGS.

COUNTY	NUMBER	COUNTY	NUMBER
Knox	27,310	Allen	30,734
Greene	23,072	Elkhart	17,174
Sullivan	29,528	St. Joseph	12,337
Davies	27,905	LaPorte	9,628
Pike	16,621	Montgomery	48,590
Gibson	22,987	Tippecanoe	28,905

CORN.

COUNTY	ACREAGE	BUSHELS	AVERAGE PER ACRE
Knox	64,052	2,818,288	44
Greene	55,295	1,990,620	36
Sullivan	51,583	2,063,320	40
Davies	47,738	1,628,092	34
Pike	32,586	1,288,268	38
Gibson	51,183	1,647,856	32
Allen	52,130	1,876,000	36
Elkhart	36,226	1,376,588	38
St. Joseph	38,079	1,237,728	32
La Porte	49,292	1,528,052	31
Montgomery	73,640	3,008,300	49
Tippecanoe	102,065	3,776,415	37

And the above is only a partial showing of the rich agricultural country tributary to Vincennes, and whose products find a market here. The rich Allison prairie in Lawrence county, Illinois, extending from the Wabash River backwards about eight miles and up and down the river ten miles produces abundant crops of all kinds of grain which comes to the Vincennes market and equals almost the amount that comes from Knox county itself. This prairie is noted for the fertility of its soil. For many years this rich prairie was mostly unfit for cultivation, being twice in the year overflowed by the united

waters of the Wabash and Embarras Rivers. Through the centre of it extended a vast swamp called "Purgatory Swamp" which was difficult and dangerous to pass over at any season of the year. But this has all been remedied by the building of levees to confine the waters of these rivers, and by drainage and this prairie is today as rich and productive as any lands in the west.

The immense quantities of wheat, corn, oats, hay and all agricultural products that are thrown on the Vincennes market at proper seasons put the transportation companies to extraordinary exertions to send it to eastern and foreign markets. It is stated by agents in this city buying wheat for eastern parties, and by the city millers and owners of different elevators in the city, that the wheat crop of Knox county alone the present year will reach two million bushels, and some give a still higher figure. To this Lawrence county, in Illinois, will add at least one million bushels more.

As already stated, the country around Vincennes on both sides of the Wabash River is adapted to the production of all kinds of produce. Within the last decade the production of watermelons and nutmegs has reached such vast proportions that it is difficult in season when ready for market to procure cars for their transportation. The points in Knox county suitable and devoted to the cultivation of melons are Decker, Purcell, Vincennes, Emison and Oaktown, and Sandridge in Lawrence county, Illinois. From these various places immense shipments are made and the product is highly prized and takes rank in the markets of the north and east with the produce of any other section. The returns to the producer amount to more in proportion to the time, labor and acreage cultivated than the production of wheat, corn or other grain crops. And this industry has only commenced within a few years past and is as it were in its infancy.

The county of Knox in Indiana and the county of Law-

rence in Illinois have all kinds of soil. The high lands are rich and productive and adapted to any kind of farm use. The immense bottom lands on the Wabash and White Rivers are especially adapted to the production of corn and hay, and average crops can be raised on these lands without the customary rains in seasons of most severe drought. There is no kind of produce that is required for the use of man or beast but what can be profitably raised in abundance in the country around Vincennes. It is, therefore, no idle boast to claim that Vincennes is situated in the midst of the garden spot of the world.

CHAPTER XIX.

Commerce.

Vincennes has always been favorably located for commerce. The Wabash River has been a natural highway ready for use. When there were no roads or other means of inter-communication in the Northwest, the Wabash River was the great artery of commerce for all the inhabitants along its course. When the red men of the forest were here in their glory, the lords of all they surveyed, the Wabash River was his delight. His bark canoe was all that disturbed its crystal waters. And when the white men came and settled along its banks and built up a profitable trade with the Indians, the Wabash River afforded the only means of communication with the outside world. The *"pirogues"* of the *"Courier der bois,"* as the advance guard of commercial men were called, navigated its waters, bringing goods and merchandize from Canada for the inhabitants and carrying back to Canada the pelfries and goods purchased from the Indians. When the country increased in wealth and population and better means of communication were demanded to answer the increased demands of commerce, the steamboat came to supply the demand. And the Wabash River was again the great artery of commerce. From the introduction of steamboats until the advent of railroads the Wabash River was in its glory. Steamboats from New Orleans, St. Louis, Louisville, Cincinnati and Pittsburg were daily visitors to the Vincennes port during the boating season, lasting about five months in the year, and after the building of the lock and dam at the grand rapids much larger, it was then no uncommon sight to see three and four steamboats from the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers at the Vin-

cennes wharf at the same time, and flatboats called "broadhorns" to carry the produce of the country to the southern markets could be seen at all times passing the town, wending their sluggish way with the flowing current to their southern destination. In 1836 as many as 800 of these boats passed by Vincennes by actual count. To show the immense business transacted on the Wabash River by steamboats, we will insert a partial list of the boats that regularly traded with Vincennes from the various ports on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers from 1840 to 1845: Argus, Alpha, Aid, Adelaide, Arabian, Banner, Citizen, Caledonia, Conveyance, Companion, Ceres, Concord, Cuba, Coquette, Camden, Corsair, Cecelia, Cumberland Valley, Casket, Comanche, Canton, Daniel Boone, Dayton, Envoy, Emigrant, Exchange, Elk, Experiment, Fairy Queen, Fox, Fame, Florida, Gazelle, Gen. Warner, Gen. Marion, Gleaner, Gen. Hanna, Helen Mar, Herald, Hero, Hunter, Home, Herschel, Harriet, Hudson, Hilander, Indian, Juniata, Java, Julia, Gratiot, Jim Brown, Kentucky, Lady Boon, Lady Byron, Lady Madison, L'Orient, Lilly Lancaster, Little Ben Franklin, Logansport, Minor, Monroe, Motto, Mt. Vernon, Minstrel, Martha, Marquette, Minerva, Maryland, Nile, Nimrod, New Haven, Nick of the Woods, Nathan Hale, Niagara, Newark, Osage, Orion, Otsego, Ohio, Othello, Paragon, Penn, Portsmouth, Putnam, Pittsburg, Pekin, Philadelphia, Pearl, Planet, Rapids, Rover, Rochester, Roanoke, Reserve, Sylph, Science, Shoal Water, Spy, Signal, Shylock, Sciota Belle, Spartan, Salem, Sabine, Tecumseh, Tuscumbia, Tide, Texas, Thames, Tippecanoe, Tennessee, Tray, U. S. Mail, Victor, Vigilant, Visitor, Virginia, Waterloo, Wyoming, William Penn, Wm. Halbert, Wacauster.

In 1843 a company was formed to provide slack water navigation at the grand rapids of the Wabash River. This company built a lock and dam that overcame that obstacle to the

river navigation. But the lock and dam was constructed of wood and in the coarse of time rotted and became an obstacle to navigation instead of an aid. The stockholders fortunately sold their shares to the United States and the Federal authorities constructed durable and expensive works of stone in their place at a cost of near a million dollars. But this expenditure of money was useless as the splendid works are not used for the purposes originally intended and never will be of any use except for the valuable water power they can furnish.

The Wabash River as an artery of commerce to transport the produce of the Wabash valley to market has lost its prestige. The advent of railroads, that wonderful creative power that has built up cities in localities where nature never designed they should be located, has robbed the Wabash River of its glory as a waterway of commerce for general purposes. But it is yet and ever will be an aid and feeder for the Vincennes market. Several steamboats navigate its waters both above and below Vincennes at all stages of water and gather up and bring to the Vincennes market the abundant crops of the farms along its bank where they are re-shipped to the markets of the world by rail. This now makes, and in future will increase the volume, Vincennes one of the largest and best points for the purchase and shipment of produce in the West. The profitable and remunerative business of Vincennes, now very heavy, is constantly on the increase, and from the nature of things, will continue to increase with accelerated force with the improvement and development of the country. There is no point in the West that offers better advantages in all departments of active life than Vincennes.

While the Wabash River has ceased to be the artery of trade and commerce as it was in the past, Vincennes is now supplied with railroad facilities that more than compensate this loss. Railroads are the great arteries of commerce which have been contrived by the ingenuity of man and which have relegated

to the rear in many cases rivers, canals, and macadamized roads. Vincennes is now connected by the railroad to Terre Haute and thence by direct connection with Chicago, the greatest railroad center in the world, with the entire northern country. The railroad to Indianapolis, the capital of the state, and the second railroad center in the West, gives it connection with all points in the East. The railroad to Cincinnati and its Louisville branch, opens up the entire East and Southeast. The railroad to Evansville and its southern connections, opens up the South. The railroad to Cairo at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, opens up the entire Southwest. And the railroad to St. Louis opens up the entire West. These various railroads and their close connections open up a direct communication with all points of the compass and make Vincennes a railroad center of no small importance.

CHAPTER XX.

Fraternities.

Vincennes has been noted for the number of its fraternal societies. This is evidence of the mutual regard and friendship of its citizens for each other.

Among these fraternities the first place is due to the Masonic Order. The first lodge of Masons was organized here March 31, 1809, under the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and was No. 8 under that jurisdiction. When the Grand Lodge of Indiana was formed it surrendered that charter, and on the 13th of January, 1818, received one from the Grand Lodge of Indiana being No. 1, which primitive rank it has ever since maintained. The lodge meets the first Monday in each month.

The Vincennes Royal Arch Chapter No. 7 meets the second Monday in each month.

The Vincennes Council No. 9 meets the third Monday in each month.

The Vincennes Commandery No. 20, Knights Templar, meets the fourth Monday in each month.

The above are all Masonic fraternities and meet at the Masonic Temple on the corner of Main and Third streets.

Wabash Lodge No. 20 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows meets at Odd Fellow Hall on the corner of Second and Broadway streets every Tuesday evening. The Pride of the Wabash No. 458, Daughters of Rebecca, meets every Monday evening.

Dioscuri Lodge No. 47, Knights of Pythias, meets every Tuesday evening.

Vincennes Division No. 42, Uniform Rank of the Knights of Pythias, meets every Friday evening.

Jefferson C. Davis Post No. 16 of the Grand Army of the Republic meets the first and fourth Fridays in each month.

Piankeshaw Lodge No. 108 of the Improved Order of Red Men meets every Wednesday on the corner of Second and Broadway streets.

The Home Forum, No. 590, of the Home Forum Benefit Order, meets every Tuesday on the corner of Seventh and Broadway streets.

St. Francis Xavier Branch No. 256 of the Catholic Knights of America meets on the second and fourth Sundays in each month at St. Francis Xavier Hall.

St. John's Branch No. 533 of the Catholic Knights of America meets every second and fourth Thursdays in each month at St. John's Hall.

St. Paul Commandery of the Uniform Rank of the Catholic Knights of America meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at St. John's Hall.

Vincennes Lodge No. 29 of the Ancient Order of United Workmen meets every Thursday at the corner of Main and Fifth streets.

Vincennes Lodge No. 291, of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks meets every Thursday in their hall on the corner of Fourth and Main streets.

The Vincennes Council No. 674 of the National Union meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month on corner of Main and Fifth streets.

Plato Council No. 492 of the Royal Arcanum meets every Thursday at 310½ Main street.

Molluch Court No. 45 of the Tribe of Ben Hur meets the second and fourth Fridays of each month at Odd Fellows Hall.

Tecumseh Camp No. 3945 of the Modern Woodmen of America meets first and third Thursdays of each month at Odd Fellows Hall.

Elmwood Camp No. 31 of the Woodmen of the World meets last Saturday of each month at the corner of Main and Fifth streets.

The Fortnightly Literary Club meets the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the City Hall at 2:30 p. m.

The Independent Order of B'nai B'rith Etz Chain Lodge No. 205 meets first and third Sundays in each month at corner of Seventh and Broadway streets.

Bethlehem Senate No. 150 of the Knights of the Ancient Essenic Order meets first and third Tuesdays of each month at 310½ Main street.

Vincennes Lodge No. 936 of the Knights of Honor meets first and third Wednesdays of each month at 310½ Main street.

Review Lodge No. 362 of the Knights and Ladies of Honor meets on the first and third Mondays of each month at 310½ Main street.

The Columbian Reading Circle meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the residences of the members.

St. John's Benevolent Society meets every Sunday at St John's School Hall.

Aaron Mitchener Lodge No. 33 of the United Brothers of Friendship (colored) meets first and third Thursdays of each month at 102½ East Main street.

Lillies of the Valley Temple No. 36, Auxilliary to the United Brothers of Friendship, meets second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 102½ East Main street.

The Harmonic Verein meets on the corner of Third and Busseron streets.

The Palace Club meets at 526 North Second street.

The Pastime Club meets on North Second street.

The Tecumseh Boat Club meets at their boat house on the river, foot of Main street.

The Teutonia Club meets at St. John's Hall.

The order of "Americano" was recently initiated in this city.

A wandering herd of Noble and Exalted Buffaloes while passing through the city last spring were captured, domiciled and incorporated with the other fraternal orders of the city. Although it comes late it has made rapid strides and it is stated by those who claim to be advised that its membership equals any other fraternal order in the city. We are not advised of the purposes of this order, but from representations of its members we wish it well. It is to be hoped it will exist longer and do more good than either of its illustrious predecessors, the *"Thousand and One"* or the *"Eclampus Vitus."* The first and present grand exalted ranchman is Orestes C. Phillips.

CHAPTER XXI.

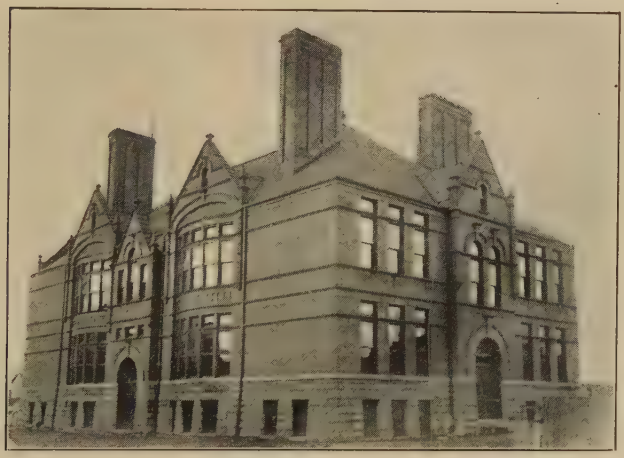
Educational.

Vincennes has been favored since 1834 with educational faciliites. Even before that time when Benedict Joseph Flaget came in December, 1792, as pastor of the church here, he directed his first attention to establishing schools. Out of his own scanty means he commenced free schools for the education of the youth. But he was too soon recalled to make any permanent headway. When Bishop Brute came here in 1834 he called to his aid and assistance the Sisters of Charity from Bardstown, Kentucky, and opened a free school for the education of young ladies. He also opened another free school for men and boys. These schools were maintained by funds supplied by the bishop himself. He is therefore entitled to be called the father of the free school system of Indiana. He also established St. Gabriel's College here in 1838, for higher education which was not free, and which during its existence had a large attendance from all parts of the West and the South.

Yet notwithstanding these evidences given by the Catholic church of its patronage of learning, it has been claimed and believed by the ignorant, that the Catholic church is unfriendly to learning. This in the face of the fact that all the great universities in Europe were established by the Papacy. Some of these universities have passed from the control of Catholic influence since the period of the reformation, but honor has compelled some of them to give honor to whom honor is due.

On this subject, Lord McCauley, on being inaugurated rector of the University of Glasgow, uses this language:

"At a conjuncture of unrivalled interest in the history of letters, a man never to be mentioned without reverence by every lover of letters, held the highest place in Europe. Our attachment to the Protestant religion must not prevent us from paying the tribute which on this occasion and in this place justice and gratitude demand to the founder of the University of Glasgow, the greatest of the revivors of learning, Pope Nicholas the Fifth."



HIGH SCHOOL.

And the faculty of this university during the present year on the celebration of its 500th anniversary, sent complimentary resolutions to Pope Leo XIII. acknowledging the debt of gratitude the university owed to the papacy, to which the Pope appropriately replied. But general publicity has not been given to it. This charge against the Catholic church is of a kin to that similar charge that the church does not encourage the reading of the scriptures. The fact is that all the

prophesies of the Old Testament and all the epistles and gospels of the New are read and explained during the course of each ecclesiastical year. But these false charges were to be expected and were all foretold by the Savior as recorded in Mathew, chapter v. verse 11, or more positively in John, chapter 16, verse 2. These charges are signs of premonition.

In addition to these schools, at a later date, private schools were started by Samuel R. Crosby, Mr. Ennis and Mr. Wilkerson. These latter schools were not free but tuition was charged for attendance.

The school facilities of Vincennes at the present time are equal to those of any place in the West, and far superior to many.

The Vincennes University is what its name implies, and affords opportunity for a higher education equal to any university in the West. It has an active and energetic board of trustees who are fully alive to the interests of the university. It is numerously attended by students from the city and county and embraces in its curriculum many from other states. No institution of learning offers better facilities for a complete and finished education than the Vincennes University.

The public schools of the city are of a high order. The High School partakes in a great measure of university features. All branches of learning are there taught. In connection with the High School and subordinate thereto, there are 1st a central school in the heart of the city, 2d the North Vincennes School, 3d the South West School in the lower part of the city, 4th the East Public School in the east part of the city, 5th the Southeast Public School for colored children, and 6th the school in Oklahoma, a suberb of the city. All these schools through the watchful care and vigilance of the city trustees are supplied with competent teachers and are well attended. These public schools are under the management of the following able and efficient board of trustees:

Eugene Hack, president; Mason J. Niblack, secretary; and T. H. Willis, treasurer.

In addition to these public schools the following other parochial schools are maintained and are all numerously attended:

St. Francis Xavier, parochial school for boys and St. Rose Academy for girls, under the direction of the Sisters of Provi-

CENTRAL SCHOOL.

dence. These schools are practically free as no tuition is charged and only those who feel themselves able are expected or required to pay for the tuition of their children.

The St. John's German Catholic Schools for boys and girls are also under the care of the Sisters of Providence and are numerously attended.

The St. John's Lutheran School for boys and girls under

the direction of St. John's Lutheran church, and supported by the congregation of that church.

The Evangelical School for boys and girls under the control of the Evangelical church and sustained by that congregation.

All these parochial schools are liberally patronized by their respective congregations. In the aggregate they have almost as large an attendance as at the public schools.

The Vincennes Shorthand Institute for teaching shorthand and which is well patronized and has sent out many pupils who have found ready and renumerative employment, both in the city and in other states, in all branches of business.

It will be observed that Vincennes is well supplied with school facilities, affording all persons a wide range to select from. It is therefore evident that Vincennes affords as good if not superior advantages over any point in the West for the education of children.

CHAPTER XXII.

MANUFACTURES.

Manufacturing industries were not encouraged for many years in Vincennes. Within the last twenty years the attention of her citizens has been called to their importance and strenuous exertions have been put forth to secure them. This change is due in a great measure to the Board of Trade and the encouragement it has shown for all manufacturing industries and to secure their location in this city.

Many years ago David S. Bonner, a very wealthy man, began the manufacture of cotton yarn. He built a large mill and employed many men and women. But his venture was not successful and involved him in financial ruin.

Some time after 1848 Christian Kratz and William Heilman came here for the purpose of locating and establishing an iron foundry. They wished a location on the river front but none of the property owners on the river front would sell to them. They remained here some time and failing to secure a suitable location, they went to Evansville and there located and established an iron foundry which was very successful.

At a later date Messrs. Miller & Cannon came here for the purpose of establishing an iron foundry. They selected an old brick stable on the west corner of Second and Buntin streets and fitted it up and had their furnace ready to begin work. They had expended all their means in having patterns made and other necessary articles connected with their business and were unable to pay their rent. Suit was brought and on the judgment recovered their entire plant was sold and this infant industry destroyed. The old brick building was never used for any purpose and the fine patterns were only used for whittling purposes.

In view of these discouraging facts an enterprising citizen

remarked that Vincennes would never advance until there were twenty or twenty-five funerals among the wealthy classes in the city. Well, that time has come. The times have changed and an aggressive spirit has taken hold of the citizens here. They are now striving with united action for the location of all kinds of manufacturing industries. These efforts have already been satisfactory and the movement is gaining accelerated force with the passing months. Among the principal establishments already secured we notice the following:

The Vincennes Bridge Company for the manufacture and building of iron bridges, arches and structural work which is successfully competing with older establishments in other places.

The Vincennes Glass Factory now in course of construction and nearing completion, for the manufacture of glass. This will be one of the largest factories of the kind in the West.

The Inter-State Distilling Company is one of the largest distilleries in the country and is running at its utmost capacity day and night.

The Central Foundry Company for the manufacture of iron sewer pipe. This is the second largest plant of the kind in the United States.

The Eagle Brewery of Hack & Simon, whose product is equal to any in the state and is being supplied not only to the city, but to all the surrounding cities and towns.

The John Ebner Ice Company for the manufacture of ice and having a capacity of 200 tons a day.

The Steam Saw Mill of the Messrs. Glover which employs a large force and is doing a large and profitable business.

The Vincennes Water Supply Company with a plant equal to any in the West and having a water tower 210 feet high and of sufficient capacity to supply the wants of a city of 50,000 population.

The Vincennes Egg Case Company for the manufacture of egg cases and is run day and night to supply the increasing demand for its product.

The Vincennes Paper Company for the manufacture of paper with a splendid plant of the latest and most improved machinery and running day and night to enable it to fill its orders.

The Vincennes Electric Light and Power Company is in successful operation.

The Wabash Valley Foundry for the manufacture of steam boilers and all kinds of mill machinery is doing a fine business.

The Broadway Mills now being enlarged and furnished with new and improved machinery and when completed will have a capacity of 200 barrels of flour a day.

The Vincennes Elevator Company for the purchase and storage of all kinds of grain.

The Atlas Elevator for the purchase and storage of wheat and corn, with a storage capacity of a quarter million bushels of grain.

The Atlas Mills for the manufacture of flour and running day and night and turning out 200 barrels of flour per day.

The Baltic Mills for the manufacture of corn meal, and running at its utmost capacity day and night to enable it to supply its customers.

The Citizens' Gas Light Company with a fine plant and doing a profitable and successful business.

The City Electric Light Company erected in 1899 and with the latest and improved machinery, is now lighting the entire city under a contract.

The Vincennes Citizens' Street Railroad with a power house of its own and running its cars through the business portion of the city and to many points in the vicinity.

The Vincennes Galvanized Iron Works for the manufacture

of slate, tin and iron roofing and galvanized iron cornice and doing an extensive business and filling large contracts at home and in many other states in the North and South.

The Vincennes Novelty Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of all kinds of jewelry and bric a brac and being the only establishment of the kind in this country, and is being run all the time to enable it to supply the increasing demand for its products.

The Vigo Mills for the manufacture of flour and corn meal.

The Union Elevator Company for the purchase and storage of all kinds of grain.

The machine and repair shops of Convery & Recker for the repair and manufactureing of all kinds of mill and agricultural machinery.

The Wagon Works of J. F. Miller & Sons for the manufacture of wagons and buggies and doing a large business, filling orders not only at home but in many foreign states.

The Wagon and Buggy Works of Saiter & Snyder, doing a large and profitable business.

The Hartwell Bros. Company for the manufacture of hickory handles and carriage stock generally and running constantly to keep up with the demand for its product.

The Hartman Manufacturing Company for the manufacture of all kinds of agricultural machinery.

The Marion Hard Wood Manufacturing Company.

The Enterprise Stove Company for the manufacture of stoves and iron work generally in connection therewith.

The Dr. Knapp Sanitarium for the treatment of all diseases of the eye, ear and nose.

The Grand Hotel, one of the finest hostelries in the West, and lately enlarged and improved.

The Union Depot Hotel has always commanded a large share of the patronage of the traveling public and still maintains its rank and business.

CHAPTER XXIII.

MATERIAL PROGRESS.

The progress of Vincennes has been very slow, but sure and steady. It has not been of a mushroom character, stimulated by fictitious booms and destined to retrograde when the cause hastening the advance has spent its force. There has been no retrograde movement in its history. The United States census returns show a healthy advance. Vincennes occupied a prominent place in the Northwest when the only other places were Detroit and Kaskaskia. Many other cities have since sprung up and attained prominence which had no existence when Vincennes was an important point. In this connection I will notice an incident in connection with Chicago, now the second city in the Union in wealth and population. Many years ago the citizens of the then village of Chicago, sent a deputation of its citizens to confer with the citizens of the city of Vincennes and lay before them the rich country around their village and that the only thing they lacked was an outlet to the markets of the world for the products of their land. They came and suggested it would be a benefit to the city to aid in building a gravel road from this city to their village. A public meeting was called and held at Clark's Hotel to consider the proposition. This meeting was addressed by John Law, Samuel Judah, John Ewing and others of the leading citizens of Vincennes at that time. They all took strong ground in favor of the project and urged immediate action, as Vincennes to advance must reach out for trade. The meeting passed resolutions in its favor and so far as resolutions went, determined that the road should be built without delay. But nothing was ever done farther than adopting resolutions. This was in 1828.

There are many causes that can be assigned for the slow advance of Vincennes. Some of these are external and have operated without any fault of her citizens. But many can be laid directly at the door of her own people, who by their indifference and non-action, permitted golden opportunities to pass without taking advantage of them. It is an old saying that lightning seldom strikes twice in the same place.

The capital of the Territory was foolishly removed from Vincennes to Corydon in 1814, on account of an imaginary fear of an Indian uprising that never had any real foundation. This movement was not only unopposed but in fact sanctioned by her citizens on the ground that the records of the Territorial Government might be destroyed. These records of any value at the time might have been put in a small box and hidden in a hollow tree as the charter of Connecticut was hidden in the celebrated Charter Oak. But the removal took place to the great detriment of Vincennes.

Vincennes, although the first seat of civilization and religion in the West, has never been favored by legislation. No act of Congress was ever passed giving it material aid. The same neglect has also been observed by the State Legislation. When the Internal Improvement system was determined on this discrimination against Vincennes was clearly manifested. None of the various improvements entered upon and carried on by state aid, ever benefited this place in the least. Take the Vincennes and New Albany macadamized road as one instance. That road was to be built by funds raised by taxation. Vincennes was the most populous and wealthy place along its route and furnished in taxation more than any three counties on the line. But not a dollar of the money thus furnished, was expended at this end of the road, but all was spent on the eastern end and a fine road from New Albany was built to Paoli and no farther.

Take again the Wabash and Erie Canal. When the exten-

sion of that improvement to the Ohio River was determined on from Lafayette south, an immense sum of money would necessarily be spent along its course and this expenditure would be a great advantage in building up the localities where it would be expended. For some cause unknown, Vincennes was left off the line of this canal, and it was diverted eastward from Terre Haute and thus left Vincennes off its course This diversion made the length of the canal longer and added greatly to the cost of construction. Water to supply it had to be supplied by artificial reservoirs and large tracts of rich and valuable land overflowed for the purpose which could have been supplied by the Wabash River at less cost and without damage. The immense amount of money required to make the extension to Evansville was all expended, but Vincennes received no benefit from this immense expenditure which all went to build up rival towns along its route. This immense output of money was a great benefit and rich harvest for the towns and counties through which it passed during the time it was being spent, but that was all the benefit they ever received as the canal was a practical failure and with the advent of railroads, was abandoned. These causes operated against Vincennes but were matters over which her people had no exclusive control.

But there were other causes operating against Vincennes for which they were solely responsible. It is situated in one of the richest agricultural districts in the West. These rich lands tributary to Vincennes on both sides of the Wabash River, in Illinois and Indiana, threw upon her market annually, the rich and valuable products of their soil. These were marketed here and bought up and paid for by the dealers and merchants of Vincennes and the farmer paid for them in high priced goods purchased in the eistern cities. This process resulted in a golden harvest for the merchants and traders. But the profit they realized from resources tributary

to the place were not invested in industries and manufacturies calculated to build up and advance the place, but were unwisely loaned out to enterprising men in Terre Haute, Evansville, Cincinnati and even Philadelphia. The money thus loaned was used by the borrowers in establishing manufacturies in these cities to the detriment of Vincennes, where the golden egg that enabled them to do these things was laid. And it is a well known fact to many citizens now living in Vincennes, that for many years the old merchants and business men of the place, discouraged the location of manufacturies here for fear that these goods manufactured here would come in competition with their wares purchased in eastern cities and thus diminish their profits.

But all these drawbacks have spent their force. In spite of them the city has maintained a steady advance, only stimulated by its own natural resources. It is evident to the most casual observer that a better feeling has dawned upon the place. New men of enterprise and push have come and inaugurated a new programme. In the past fifteen years all the improvements which are now the pride of the city have come. And these improvements received no aid or encouragement but the active opposition of the wealthy citizens of the place. The magnificent system of water works which have been constructed, having no superior and but few equals in any city, was violently opposed and only secured by a small majority at a popular election. The street railroad system was not favored or encouraged by many and was secured by the enterprise of a few individual citizens. The splendid electric light plant which was erected last year, lighting the city in all its parts every night and all night, was secured after a long and powerful opposition had spent its force. These and many other aids to the upbuilding of a modern city have already been secured. They are now operating as powerful factors in hastening the onward march of improvement. No such

efforts will be required to be put forth in future to secure additional aids as were required to obtain the ones we now have. These are as it were, levers that have lifted the city out of the mire of perdition, stripped it of its swaddling clothes and put on it the garments of a rising giant.

The material structures of the city are being changed. There is not in the city a solitary landmark reaching back beyond 1800. The oldest house in the city is the Harrison mansion, erected in 1804, and that substantial structure is a half century older than the one erected just after it. All the old time houses have disappeared and their places have been taken by modern houses of architectural designs, and present a new and beautiful appearance. The real property of the city has to a considerable extent changed owners and this change is continuously going on. It may be said that in the past twenty years the realty of the city has passed out of the hands of the original proprietors into the possession of enterprising men. The material structures of the city are up to date and present as attractive appearance as any city in Indiana.

The hotel interest has caught the improvement fever and within the past year the Grand Hotel has been enlarged and improved at a great outlay of money so that Vincennes now possesses what has been so long wanted, a first class hotel. This hotel is really an advertisement of the city as strangers passing through a place see more of its hotels than any other of its buildings and form their impressions of the place from the character of its hotels.

Within three years past more substantial buildings have been erected in Vincennes than in any twenty years previous thereto. This building boom is constantly on the increase since it started three years ago. Each succeeding year surpasses the number of buildings erected the previous year. During the present year all previous records have been broken

and the largest and most costly business houses and residences have been erected.

Some of the wholesale business houses now in course of erection are constructed on a mammoth scale and of as large dimensions as can be found in any city in Indiana. They are also located with an eye to business and economy in receiving and shipping goods with a private spur to them from the main railroad track so that in the reception and distribution of goods all drayage will be avoided. This mode of building is original here and will be imitated in this city and elsewhere as its advantages are apparent and will make Vincennes an exceptional point for the rapid and cheap distribution of goods of all kinds.

And the end is not yet. The improvement of the city is in its infancy. This necessarily results from the natural and acquired resources of the city which offers better inducements than any other city in the state at this time for any one seeking a location for active business or wishing to enjoy life "otium cum dignitate."

While Vincennes has a venerable past on one side, on the other side it is on the verge of an opening future full of youth and vitality. While it has a history reaching back to a time "whereof the memory of man runneth not to the contrary," it is now like an old man who has laid off his old clothes and put on new ones.

CHAPTER XXIV.

PERSONAL MENTION.

The following is a list of the heads of families settled at Post Vincennes on or before the 1st of August 1783, to each of whom were donated 400 acres of land in the old Donation tract.

Louis Alaire, Joseph Andrez, Francois Brouillet, Francois Boraye, Jr., John Baptiste Binette, Charles Boneau, Vital Beucher, Marie, widow of Louis Bayer, Amable Boulon, Charles Bugard, Mitchel Burdelow, Mitchel Brouillet, Francois Bosseron, Francois Boraye, Sr., Antoine Burdalow, Sr., Louis Brouillet, Louis Bayer, John Baptiste Cardinal, Francois Coder, Pierre Cornoyer, Joseph Chabot, Antoine Cary, Francois Compagniat, Jacques Cardinal, Joseph Chartier, Nicholas Chapard, Joseph Charpontier, Piere Chartier, Sr., Moses Carter, Antoine Dronette, John Baptiste Dubois, John Baptiste Duchene, Charles Dielle, Charles Delisle, Pierre Daigneau, Antoine Dorrys, Louis De Claurier, John Baptiste Deloyier, Honore Dorrys, Charles Dudevoir, Amable Delisle, Jacques Denze, Joseph Ducharme, Bonaventure Drogier, Nicholas Ditart, Francois Desauve, Louis Edeline, Joseph Flamelin, John Baptiste Javale, Paul Gamelin, Charles Gusille, Touissaint Goder, Antoine Gamelin, Paul Gamelin, Amable Gaurquipie, Alexis A. Gallinois, Pierre Gilbert, John Baptist Harpin, Joseph Hunot, Sr., Etienne Jacques, Edward Johnson, Jacques Latrimoille, Francois Lognon, Joseph Lognon, Jacques Lacroix, Pierre Laforest, Anthony Luneford, Charles Languedoc, Jacques Lamotte, Andre Languedoc, Pierre Langlois, Joseph Leveron, Louis Laderoute, Francois Languedoc, Louis Lamere, John Baptiste Mangen, Pierre

Mallet, Antoine Mallet, Andre Montplesir, Louis Meteyer, Francois Winie, John Baptiste Mallet, Nicholas Mayat, Francois Mallet, Joseph Michael, Antoine Marier, Frederick Mahl, Joseph Mallet, John Baptiste Moyes, Michael Nean, John Baptiste Quillet, Joseph Perrdeau, Guillaume Payes, Pierre Perret, Amable Perron, Pierre Quivez, Sr., John Baptiste St. Marie Racine, Pierre Regnez, Francois Racine, Pierre Andre Racine, Louis Ravellette, Louis Raupiault, Joseph Raux, Joseph St. Marie, Joseph Sabelle, John Baptiste, St. Aubin, Etienne St. Marie, Francois Turpin, Francois Tuidel, Joseph Tougas, Francois Vachette, John Baptiste Vaudray, John Baptiste Vaudray, Jr., Francis Vigo, Alexander Vallez, Antoine Vaudrez, John Baptiste Vilray, Angelique, widow of Etienne Phillibert, Mary Louisa, widow of Nicholas Perrot, Felicite, widow of Francois Peltier, Angelique, widow of Francois Basinet, Marie, widow of Nicholas Cardinal, Susanna, widow of Pierre Coder, Marianne, widow of Louis Denoyou, Marie, widow of Hyacinthe Denoyou, Veronique, widow of Guilleaume Daperon, Francois, widow of Ambrose Dagenet, Genevieve, widow of Pierre Gremore, Ann, widow of Moses Henry, Catarine, widow of John Baptiste Lafontaine, Madeline, widow of St. Jean Legarde, Veronique, widow of Gabriel LaGrande, Marie Louis, widow of John Philip Marie Lagras, Louise, widow of Antoine Lefevre, Catarine, widow of Amable Lardoise, Madeline, widow of Joseph Stone, Genevieve, wife of Joseph Laboissier, the husband deserted, Renez Godene de Pannah, Agate, widow of Amable Rumay.

The following were the effective men belonging to Capt. Pierre Gamelin's company at Post Vincennes, July 4th, 1790: Christopher Wyant, ensign; Peter Thorn, sergeant; Frederick Mahl, sergeant; Jeremiah Mayes, sergeant; Richard Johnson, cadet; Robert Johnson, Joseph Cloud, David Pea, John Loc, Godfrey Peters, John Murphy, John Lafferty, Frederick Bar-

ger, George Barger, Peter Barger, Frederick Midle, Benjamin Beckes, Robert Day, Edward Sherbrook, John Westfall, Edward Johnson, Joshua Harbin, John Robbins, John Martin, Abraham Westfall, James Watts, Thomas Jordan, William Smith, Daniel Smith, James Johnson, Ezekiel Holliday, Michael Thorne, Solomon Thorne, Daniel Thorne, Charles Thorne, Christian Barkman, Abraham Barkman, John Rice Jones, Patrick Simpson, John Wilmore, Frederick Lindsay, Matthew Dibbons, Hugh Demsey, John Culbert, Robert Gravert and Isaac Carpenter.

CHAPTER XXV.

DISTINGUISHED PERSONNEL.

Vincennes has been a common center in which congregated an array of able and determined men. Most of these became permanent residents. Many after a short sojourn went in every direction to lay the foundations of society in other places, to frame constitutions and laws for the well being of generations of civilized people, and to exercise power and authority over countries of vast extent.

It is impossible in a proper limit to enumerate all. Only chosen examples illustrative of the qualities of the men who laid the foundations of our social structure will be presented.

FRANCOIS MORGAN DE VINCENNE.

This distinguished man was a Canadian by birth. He was a trusted officer in the service of the King of France. He came here in command of the troops of the king to build the old fort in 1702. He came and built the fort near the present site of the Catholic church. He did not remain after performing that service, but returned to Canada. He was there entrusted with an expedition against the Indians near Detroit, which was successful. The last mention of him in the Canadian records is by Le Potherie, who says he was sent to command the fort on the "Ouabasche." When he came, then he remained until his death. He married a daughter of Philip Longpre, of Kaskaskia, Illinois. His father-in-law died in 1732 and left a large estate which was divided among his children. The records in the Recorder's office at Kaskaskia show that de Vincenne went there to look after his wife's interest and that his wife was then at the Post here. The receipt for her to sign for her share was sent here and she

signed it before witnesses. This receipt is still preserved in the Recorder's office at Kaskaskia.

In 1736 the French were at war with the Chickasaw Indians, inhabiting the country to the south. De Vincenne went with the troops of the fort here to attack them. An engagement with them near where Memphis now stands was disastrous and he was taken prisoner. He could have escaped with the remnant of his force that retreated under De Voisin, a French officer, and was entreated to do so. But he refused to leave his wounded soldiers and was burned at the stake on Easter Sunday, 1736. This place had never been called Vincennes until after his death in 1736. When the remnant of his troops returned here the place was named in his honor.

After his death his widow returned to her relatives in Kaskaskia. He left an only daughter named Maria Louisa, who married Louis De Lisle, and left a large farmily of children at Kaskaskia. Some of his descendants were still residing there in 1836, and they all prided themselves on their relationship to him and added to their signatures the charmed words "De Vincenne."

This celebrated and gifted officer is generally referred to by his title de Vincenne and not by his family name Francois Morganne. But this is very natural and is the general practice in all countries that were under the influence and operation of the feudal system. This is evident from Robertson's history of Charles the Fifth and Hallam's Middle Ages and other writers concerning that system. We have instances of it in our own political history. All our school children have heard of Count de Grass, who rendered such valuable service to our fathers in the Revolutionary war. But this appellation is his title and not his family name, which was Francois Joseph Paul. Again in the case of Count de Rochambeau. His family name was Jean Baptiste Donatien. Again in the case of Marquis de La Fayette, after whom so many counties,

cities and towns in this country are named. His family name was Marie Joseph Roch Gilbert. This custom among the French, which was one of the countries under the feudal system, is fully exemplified by that exhausting work concerning the French in America during the Revolutionary war, by Thomas Balch, in vol. 2 of his work. And the same practice obtains to this day in England which was also under the operation of the feudal system. To refer to a nobleman by his title is the highest compliment that can be given him. John Churchill after the Battle of Blenheim, was enobled and given the title of Duke of Marlborough. Arthur Wellesley, after his victory at Waterloo, was given the title of Duke of Wellington, and George N. Curzon on his appointment as Viceroy of India, was given the title of Lord Kedleston, and by their titles are always addressed and referred to. This custom is referred to by Sir Walter Scott in his Waverly novel of "The Antiquary." And such was the case with De Vincenne. That his family name was Francois Morganne is stated by Edmond Mallet of the Carroll Institute of Washington City, who has made a special study of French Canadian families, and is the best authority on that subject. Also by Bishops Brute and Bishop Hailandiere.

PIERRE GIBAULT.

He was born at Montreal, Canada, April 7th, 1737. He was specially educated with reference to missionary work among the Indians of the Northwest. He was ordained priest at Quebec, March 19th, 1768. Immediately after he was appointed Vicar General of the Archbishop of Quebec for the Illinois country. He set out for the field of his life work and spent the remainder of his days in missionary labors among the Indians and French settlers in the Northwest. He arrived at Kaskaskia on the 8th of September, 1768, and on that day his first official entry in the Church of the Immaculate

Conception is made. He found church matters in great confusion, but by his energy and zeal in all the French settlements on the Mississippi, he brought order out of confusion. In the spring of 1770, he came to Vincennes, and with slight interruptions remained here as the pastor of the church until 1789. He was unquestionably the ablest man in the Northwest at that time. He had great influence over all the French inhabitants in the Northwest. He was here as parish priest in 1778, when he heard of the American Revolution, and with the instincts of all Frenchmen, he espoused the cause of the

Pierre Gibault.

American colonies. He called a public meeting to take place in the old fort here which was then unoccupied. He addressed the meeting and explained to them the nature of the struggle and their duty as Frenchmen and lovers of their native land, so as to induce them to unite with the struggling colonies, and he administered to them the oath of allegiance to the American cause. The symbol of the Revolution, a red and green flag, was then hoisted over the old fort. This was in 1778. When news of this reached the Canadian authorities, Gov. Henry Hamilton was

sent here with an armed force to counteract the movement. He came and retook the fort and arrested Father Gibault and held him a prisoner for some time. He finally agreed to release him if he would leave the place. To this Father Gibault agreed and he returned to Kaskaskia. This expulsion was a providential happening and placed him in a position where his influence was equally great and where he could render Gen. Clark substantial aid when he arrived with his small and tired army July 4th, 1778. It was certainly through the influence of this influential and magnetic man that the gates of that fortified place were opened to receive him without firing a gun or losing a man. The same influence induced all the French settlements on the Mississippi to do the same thing.

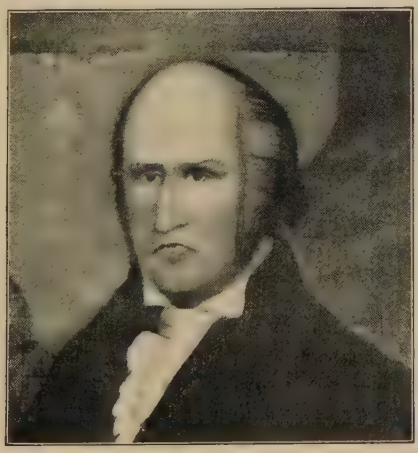
It was unquestionably Father Gibault that suggested and planned the expedition to capture the old fort here. This was not in the line of Gen. Clark's instructions and had never been mentioned by him or any of his command until after the bloodless capture of Kaskaskia. It was certainly his influence that furnished Gen. Clark with two companies of Frenchmen from Kaskaskia to aid him in his capture of the fort here. It is well known that Father Gibault addressed the troops on their departure from Kaskaskia for the Wabash and gave them his blessing. He induced his friend and parishioner, Francis Vigo, an Indian trader, at the present site of St. Louis, to furnish means to aid the expedition. He also furnished guides to conduct the force over the overflowed and icy wilderness to this place. Gen. Clark with his small and worn out force arrived here on February 24, 1779, and on the next day compelled Gov. Hamilton to surrender the fort for want of munitions of war and necessary supplies. The flag of Virginia, perhaps, was raised over the old fort here and the English dominion was at an end forever.

Father Gibault died at New Madrid, Missouri, in 1804, and his body was sent to Canada, and this grand historical char-

acter who did so much for civilization and religion in the Northwest, sleeps his last sleep in a lonely and unmarked grave.

GEN. GEORGE ROGERS CLARK.

He was a descendant of a Virginia family, settled in Albemarle and Caroline counties. He was commissioned by Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, to organize a military force and proceed to capture the English fort at Kaskaskia. He undertook the task but failed to gather the force or muni-



Gen. George Rogers Clark.

tions of war authorized by his commission. He only succeeded by his own account in raising 150 men and with this force he started from the Falls of the Ohio River at Louisville, in open boats, on June 28, 1778, and after a tedious voyage of five days down the Ohio River, he left his boats a few miles below the mouth of the Tennessee River and proceeded by land without a road and through a desert country to Kaskaskia. He arrived there on the opposite bank of the Kaskaskia River

on July 3d, 1778. The next day he crossed the river and obtained possession of Kaskaskia without firing a gun or losing a man. The same thing he accomplished in the same bloodless manner in all the French settlements of the Mississippi River.

He then formed an expedition to capture the old fort here, the real key to the possession of the Northwest. With a force augmented by two companies furnished him at Kaskaskia, he started February 5, 1779, on his campaign against the English fore here. He arrived here after many hardships incident to the overflowed condition of the country on the 24th of February, 1779, and on the next day compelled Gov. Hamilton, the English commander, to surrender the fort and hoisted the flag of Virginia over it. This result was also accomplished without the loss of a single man. The English lost the entire Northwest territory out of which the five great and populous states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin have been formed.

Gen. Clark for this service was granted a large tract of land in Clark county, Indiana, which was divided among the troops of his command. He died at a plantation called "Locust Grove" near Louisville, Kentucky, on the 12th of February, 1818.

FRANCIS VIGO.

He was a native of Mondovi in the Kingdom of Sardinia, born about the year 1747. He left his native place and went to Spain and enlisted as a Spanish soldier. With his company he came to New Orleans. He soon left the military service and went up the Mississippi River and located at an Indian village on the high lands on the site of the present City of St. Louis. He began to trade with the Indians and although he was illiterate, was a successful trader. He became possessed of a large estate for that early day. He was at that Indian village on the Mississippi River when Gen. Clark

arrived at Kaskaskia, and without difficulty, obtained possession of that French village. After Gen. Clark had obtained possession of Kaskaskia and the other French villages on the Mississippi River, it was determined to undertake an expedition from Kaskaskia to capture the old fort on the Wabash at Vincennes. When that expedition was planned, Col. Vigo was induced to furnish aid and means to carry it on. It is safe to claim that the influence that operated on Col. Vigo was Father Pierre Gibault. Gen. Clark was not known to Col. Vigo. He was, however, a member of Father Gibault's

Francis Vigo.

congregation and he had great influence over him. Father Gibault at the request of Col. Vigo, had erected the first Catholic church in the Indian village where Col. Vigo resided. However this may be, it is certain that Col. Vigo furnished money and support, if Congress appropriations are to be believed, to aid the expedition. After Gen. Clark captured the fort here, Col. Vigo came to Vincennes and located and continued to reside here until his death in 1836.

He was induced to come and locate here in consequence of the land grants of Congress to the French, and he began to trade with the Indians and the French inhabitants who had

been granted lands by Congress. He was again successful and by the time the United States Commissioners came here to adjust French land grants in 1804, he had become the largest land proprittor here. He was successful when trading with the red savage or the ignorant Frenchman, but when he came in contact with the educated class that came here, when the territory was organized, this vast estate disappeared as the morning mist is dissipated by the rising sun and he died in 1836, an object of charity.

When Col. Vigo came here he was unmarried, but he married a Miss Shannon. She lived but a short time after the marriage and bore him no children. At his death he left no heirs of his body and no known blood kindred. The only relatives he left were by affinity with his wife.

When he came and long before, he was a devout Catholic. It was through his exertions that many priests were sent here by Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore, before and after 1796. He was a very zealous Catholic in all church functions and his name appears on the church register as godfather at many baptisms and as witness to many marriages. This continued until he became too old to attend to such church matters. When the church here was incorporated in 1807, he was elected one of the trustees and so continued until 1822 and attended all meetings of the trustees. Yet his body after his death was buried in a Protestant cemetery.

He was poor and wanting the necessaries of life at the time of his death. When the branch of the State Bank of Indiana was organized here in 1834, the first five dollar bill issued by the branch was made payable to Col. Vigo. He would not use this money although in distress, but depositel the bill in the archives of the Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society as a relic. It remained there for many years after the death of Col. Vigo. It was abstracted from the archives of that society by one John Decker, and put in circulation. Efforts

were made to secure its return, but with what success is not known.

Col. Vigo had a claim before Congress for remuneration on account of the advances he had furnished Gen. Clark. It was never paid until forty years after his death. At the time of payment by Congress he had no blood relations to become beneficiaries of the appropriation. He had employed John Law, Abner T. Ellis and Luther H. Reed as attorneys to prosecute this claim, who were to receive their compensation out of any funds Congress might appropriate.

In relation to this claim he frequently stated that the government was slow in allowing it and that he had become too old for it to be of any use to him, and that if ever paid, the Catholic church should have it. He made this statement to Bishop Brute when on his death bed at the house of Betsy La-Plante. But the claim was not paid until forty years after his death and the church got nothing out of the appropriation made by Congress. In 1834 he executed what purported to be his last will. But this document on account of remarkable provisions in it, was thought by his friends to have been executed when he was "non compos." When Mr. English was here looking up data for his history, he requested the author to accompany him to the Catholic cemetery and show him the grave of Col. Vigo. When informed Col. Vigo was not buried in the Catholic but in the Protestant cemetery, he expressed surprise. He was accompanied to the Protestant cemetery and his neglected grave hunted up and after cutting away the briers and scraping away the moss on the plain slab lying on his grave, we found the date of his death erroneously given. This fact satisfied us that the plain slab had been placed there by some good Samaritan not acquainted with the facts connected with his death. In the remarkable will executed during his declinging years it is provided that after paying the lawyers' fees the balance of any money appro-

priated by Congress on his claims, should be used in buying a small bell for the Court House of Vigo County, Indiana, which was named in his honor, and the entire balance should be paid to Francis McKee and Archibald McKee. The will appointed Albert Badollet, George W. Ewing and Archibald McKee, one of his devisees, his executors. Messrs. Badollet and Ewing never qualified, but McKee did, and took upon himself the sole execution of the trust. The will also contained the provision that after death his body should be disposed of in any manner his executors might see proper. This clause particularly caused remarks and his friends doubted his sanity at the time of its execution. He died at the house of Betsy LaPlante, who lived in a rented frame house on the southwest side of Main street midway between Fourth and Fifth streets. She was a poor French woman and attended him in his last sickness and until his death, March 22, 1836, and never received any compensation for her services. Andrew Gardner was the undertaker who buried his remains and for his services charged the reasonable and modest sum of twenty dollars. But this small charge was not paid until forty years after his death and is one of the few debts against his estate that were ever paid. His executor and devisee never filed any inventory of his estate or made any final report of the amount Congress allowed on the claim or the manner it was disbursed, and did not pay the costs of the administration or the printing of the funeral tickets. Senator Voorhees stated the original claim of Col. Vigo for supplies furnished Gen. Clark was $8,016. But this claim was not allowed until 1875 when it was allowed with the addition of $41,282.60 for interest. This large sum was allowed forty years after the death of Col. Vigo, who had no blood relations to be benefited, and it all went to persons who had not ministered to him in his hour of distress.

He was buried in the Protestant cemetery on the 22d of March, 1836, with the honors of war.

GENERAL W. JOHNSON.

He was a native of Culpepper, County of Virginia. He came to Vincennes and permanently located in 1783. He was a prominent member of the bar and was the first attorney admitted to practice in the courts here. He filled many offices of trust under the borough organization and also under the territorial government. He was twice elected to the bench as President Judge of the Knox Circuit Court. He was frequently elected to represent the county in the legislature. He was an enthusiastic Mason. He compiled the first code of laws of the Indiana Territory. He resided on the west corner of First and Hart streets in a house that was torn down the present year. He died October 26th, 1833, and was buried with Masonic honors.

GENERAL HYACINTHE LASSELLE.

He was a Frenchman by birth and came to the Wabash country from Canada in 1797. He remained here in business until 1833, when he removed to Logansport, Indiana. He was a practical Catholic and was one of the trustees of the church as long as he resided here. He was in the military service of the government when Zachary Taylor was commandant of Fort Knox. When Col. Taylor was promoted for his gallant defense of Fort Harrison in 1813, Gen. Lasselle was promoted and succeeded him as commandant of Fort Knox. He erected a very large frame hotel on the west corner of Second and Perry streets, which was the principal hotel of the town as long as he remained here. It was destroyed by fire in 1871. Gen. Lasselle was one of the most active and influential citizens of the place and his removal to Logansport was generally regretted

WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON.

He was born at Burkeley, Virginia, on the banks of the James River. He descended from a revolutionary ancestry. His father, Benjamin Harrison, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was educated in Virginia,

Gen. Harrison.

and imbibed the principles of the great men of that state. He belonged to a wealthy family who had great influence in the state and nation, and enabled him to obtain honorable and remunerative employment. He was appointed the first Governor of Indiana Territory and came to this place in 1801.

When he came he found Vincennes in reality a French village, as there were but few persons in the place who spoke or understood any language except the French. When he came there was not a brick house in the place. He erected in 1804, on his plantation called "Grouseland," adjoining the village, a fine brick mansion which yet stands and will bear contrast with any brick structure in the city. He was the patron of learning and education and was instrumental in founding the Vincennes Library and the Vincennes University. He commanded the troops in the bloody battle of Tippecanoe, fought with the Indians in November, 1811. He was the candidate of the Whig party in the memorable political contest of 1840, when he was elected the ninth President of the United States over Martin Van Buren, by a large majority of the electoral vote. He was inaugurated President on the 4th of March, 1841, and one month after on April 4th, 1841, he died in the presidential mansion at Washington City. His remains were brought to Ohio and buried on his homestead estate at North Bend on the Ohio River, a few miles below Cincinnati. Gen. Harrison had represented Ohio in the Senate of the United States before he was elected President. He left Vincennes the latter part of October, 1811, on his way to fight the battle of Tippecanoe, and never returned here to reside. He was soon after the battle of Tippecanoe appointed a major-general in the United States army and was engaged in military operations in the North and fought the battle of the Thames in which Tecumseh, the celebrated Indian chief, was killed. Although he never returned to this place to reside, he was held in high esteem by the citizens. In the presidential election of 1840, on account of his personal popularity, he received a large vote in this city and county. He visited Vincennes in 1835, and was at the house of Elihu Stout, where the writer saw him frequently.

GENERAL JOHN GIBSON.

He was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in May, 1740. He was appointed the first Secretary of the Indiana Territory and came here with Gen. Harrison in 1801. He remained here until April, 1814, when as acting Governor of the Territory, he removed with the capital to Corydon. He was an honest man and capable official. During his long official life he was always above temptation or suspicion, and left an official record without a blemish. He had went through severe and trying service in various Indian wars before he came here. He was the interpreter to whom Logan, the celebrated Mingo chief, delivered the speech which has been immortalized by Jefferson in his notes on Virginia. He died at "Braddocks Fields" near the City of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, at the residence of George Wallace, his son-in-law, on April 19th, 1822, in the 82d year of his age.

JOHN BADOLLET.

He was born in the City of Geneva, Switzerland, in the year 1758. He was the son of a Lutheran minister. A strong friendship and attachment sprung up between him and Albert Gallatin. They came to the United States together and arrived here about 1776. He first settled in Pennsylvania and during his residence there was entrusted with various state offices. Through the influence of his friend Albert Gallatin, he was appointed the first Registrar of the United States land office at this place, and came and permanently located here and remained until his death. He discharged the complicated duties of the Registrar's office with such exactness that no errors have been detected in his work. He continued as Registrar of the land office until 1836, when he resigned and his son, Albert Badollet, was appointed in his place. He was one of the commissioners appointed by the United States to adjust land grants in the Vincennes District. He was elected a mem-

ber of the convention that framed the first Constitution of Indiana in 1816. He served on many important committees in that convention and was an influential and useful member. He died universally regretted, July 29, 1837.

NATHANIEL EWING.

He was appointed the first Receiver of Public Monies of the land office here. He came here to discharge the duties of that office and remained here until his death. He was one of the United States Commissioners to adjust land titles in the Vincennes District. He was one of the many able men who came here during territorial days. He was full of resources and was always ready to encourage any enterprise calculated to benefit the place. He died August 6, 1846, at his county seat four miles east of Vincennes. His remains were brought to this city and buried in the public cemetery and a fine monument erected over his grave. He left six children, three sons and three daughters. Caroline married Dr. George W. Mears, of Indianapolis; Harriet married James Farrington, of Terre Haute; and Sarah married John Law. George W. Ewing was elected Probate Judge and acquired the title of the "Orphans' Friend." William L. Ewing went to St. Louis and engaged in banking and accumulated a large fortune. James Ewing remained here and was a successful business man.

ZACHARY TAYLOR.

He was a Virginian by birth and was a descendant of Revolutionary ancestors. He came to Vincennes a stranger to fortune and fame, as a United States military officer, to take command of Fort Knox. He began his military career here and gained his first distinction by his gallant defense of Fort Harrison in 1811, which brilliant achievement secured his promotion. He resided in Vincennes with his family and here his daughter, Jessie Taylor, who afterwards mar-

ried Jefferson Davis in a runaway match, was born. He left here with his family after 1812 and was stationed at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in command of the Department of the Gulf. He was in command here at the breaking out of the Mexican war and commanded the army at the storming of

Zachary Taylor.

Matamoras and the battles of Saltillo and Buena Vista. He was elected the twelfth President of the United States in 1848, and was inaugurated March 4, 1849. He died in the executive mansion at Washington City during his term, on July 4th, 1850.

GEORGE ROGERS CLARK SULLIVAN.

He was born on the farm of his father, General Henry Sullivan, near Louisville, Kentucky. He studied law and was admitted to practice. He was a brother-in-law of Elihu Stout, and came here and practiced his profession for many years. He was honored while here with many marks of popular favor. He was often elected to office under the old borough and was one of the first postmasters of Vincennes. He was several times elected a member of the Legislature and also Prosecuting Attorney. He was very successful in his practice and had the reputation of being one of the most eloquent men at the bar of his time. He was employed in the

defense in grave criminal cases at home and abroad. In one of such cases he received as a fee the portrait of his namesake, George Rogers Clark. This was one of the only two that were ever painted from life. He brought it to Vincennes and it is now preserved in the Vincennes University. He married Helen Vanderburg, one of the daughters of Judge Vanderburg, and raised a large family of children. He removed from here and went to Quincy, Illinois, where he died. Many of his descendants now reside there and occupy prominent places in society.

ALEXANDER BUCKNER.

He was born in Kentucky and was a member of the celebrated Buckner family of that state. He studied law and was admitted to the bar. He came here to practice law. When the capital was removed to Corydon, he left and located at Charlestown, Indiana. He continued to practice law there. When the Grand Lodge of Masons was organized he was elected the first Grand Master. He removed to Missouri and when that state was admitted into the Union, he was elected one of its Senators in the United States Senate. He died in the prime of life of the cholera in 1833, and was buried at night by negro servants in a lonely grave which remained unmarked until a few years ago. The Grand Lodge of Masons of Indiana in 1897, took action in the matter and appointed a committee to go and seek out his lonely grave and erect over his remains a suitable monument. This committee of which Mason J. Niblack of this city, was chairman, went in the discharge of their duty and found his lonely grave and transferred his remains to St. Gerard cemetery on the Mississippi River and erected over this new made grave a suitable monument properly inscribed to mark his final resting place. This action of the Masonic Grand Lodge was creditable to the order and negatives the oft repeated saying "Out of sight out of mind."

BENJAMIN PARKE.

He was born in New Jersey, September 29, 1777, and removed to this place in 1801. He filled many offices under the territorial government. He was elected a delegate to Congress from the Territory. He resided here in the house on the corner of First and Hart streets, which was known as "Park Place." On the organization of the state government he was appointed the first Federal Judge for the District of Indiana. On receiving this appointment in order to be nearer Corydon, the capital of the state, he removed to Salem, where he continued to reside until his death August 12, 1835. He was still the District Judge of Indiana at the time of his death.

MOSES TABBS.

He was born in Maryland and was an accomplished scholar and lawyer, and very eloquent. He married into the family of Charles Carroll, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He came to Vincennes with his family when the state government was organized and was admitted to the bar here in 1818, and commenced the practice of law here. He soon rose to the front rank of his profession. A brilliant career was opening before him when a false report connected him with the wife of Cleves Harrison. She was a pure and cultured woman and the daughter and only child of Gen. Pike. Although the rumor had no foundation and was discredited by the people generally, and thought to have been originated by jealous rivals, it so operated upon his pure and sensitive nature as to induce him to terminate his connection with the place and return to his native state.

ISAAC BLACKFORD.

He was a native of New Jersey and a graduate of Princeton College. He commenced the practice of law here and became a popular favorite. He was elected a member of the

Legislature and was made Speaker of the House. He was the first President Judge of the Knox Circuit Court. He was appointed September 10, 1817, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Indiana, to fill a vacancy caused by the death of John Johnson. He remained continuously on the bench of the Supreme Court until January 3d, 1853. He was afterwards appointed one of the Judges of the United States Court of Claims at Washington City. He was not a speaker of any force and made few speeches, but was regarded as a well read lawyer and safe counsellor. He will be remembered in Indiana on account of the many able decisions he rendered while on the Supreme Bench and for the eight volumes of the decisions of that court which bear his name. He married a Miss Johnson of this county, but their marriage relations were not pleasant and they separated many years before his death and never lived together after the separation. He had one son, George Blackford, by his marriage with Miss Johnson, who was finely educated by his father and gave indications of becoming a worthy successor of his father but died before reaching manhood. Judge Blackford at the time of his death was very wealthy and owned much valuable real estate in the business center of Indianapolis.

JACOB CALL

This learned man and able lawyer came to Vincennes soon after the organization of the state government. He was elected President Judge of the Knox Circuit Court and during his term presided during the trial of Thomas McKinney for the murder of James Boyd, and during the trial of William Cox, a colored man, for committing a rape on a Miss Smith. Both were convicted of the charges against them and were sentenced to be hung and were accordingly executed, McKinney on the 22d of October, 1822, and Cox on April 9, 1824. These were the only persons ever executed in Knox

county in accordance with the sentence of a court until the execution of Sylvester Grubb in April, 1889. Judge Call was elected to Congress from this district over Thomas H. Blake in 1824. He was never married, but at the time of his death, was engaged to Miss Ellen Egan, a lady residing in Lexington, Kentucky. He went there for the purpose of being married in 1825. He died very suddenly before the ceremony was performed and it was generally supposed he committed suicide.

WALLER TAYLOR.

He was a native of Lunenberg County, Virginia. He studied law and came here in territorial days to practice his profession. He rose rapidly in public estimation and was elected Judge of the Common Pleas Court. When the state was admitted into the Union in 1816, he was elected one of the United States Senators as the colleague of James Noble. He took his seat in the Senate of the United States, December 12th, 1816, and drew the term expiring March 4th, 1819. He was the first and only United States Senator elected who resided here when elected. He died at his mother's house in Lunenberg County, Virginia, August 26, 1826.

THOMAS RANDOLPH.

He was a native of Virginia and a blood relation of the celebrated John Randolph of Roanoke, and also of Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence. He was a lawyer of superior ability, a fine scholar and forcible speaker. He was the United States Attorney for the District of Indiana. In 1809 he was a candidate for delegate in Congress against Jonathan Jennings. Being a Virginian by birth and an intimate friend of Gov. Harrison, who was known to be favorable to the suspension of the operation of the ordinance of 1787, forbidding slavery for a term of years, he was charged by the friends of Mr. Jennings to be

secretly in favor of slavery. Mr. Randolph denied this charge and challenged Dr. McNamee, an ardent supporter of Jennings, who circulated the charge, to fight a duel. But McNamee refused to accept the challenge. A paper was started here to oppose Randolph and assist in the election of Jennings. The contest was very bitter and resulted in the defeat of Mr. Randolph by a majority of 43 votes.

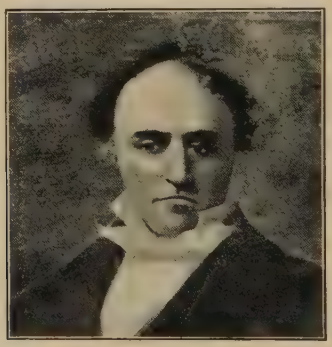
EDWARD A. HANNEGAN.

He was born in the State of Ohio. In early life he removed to Lexington, Kentucky. He studied law and came here and commenced his brilliant career. He was married here by Rev. Samuel R. Alexander, on April 4th, 1829, to Miss Margaret C. Duncan. After practicing his profession here for several years he removed to Covington, Indiana. He was elected to the 23d and 24th Congresses from his district. In 1843 he was elected to the Senate of the United States to succeed Oliver H. Smith, and served one full term of six years in that body. He was regarded as the most eloquent member of the Senate during his service. He delivered an extempore eulogy on the death of Henry Clay, the "Great Commoner," which was regarded by the country as a master performance. During the presidential election of 1844, the Democratic party declared in favor of fixing the Oregon boundary line at 54 degrees, 40 minutes or fight. But after the election Mr. Polk yielded to the demands of Great Britain and the boundary line was fixed at 49 degrees. For this concession Mr. Hannegan denounced the President in a speech of great power on the floor of the Senate in the course of which he used the memorable expression, "by this act of perfidy the President has sunk himself so low in popular estimation that the hand of resurrection would never reach him." After the close of his senatorial career he left the state and located at St. Louis to practice his profession. But soon after he died

of a broken heart occasioned by the homicide of his friend and brother-in-law, under an insane impulse.

SAMUEL JUDAH.

He was born in the City of New York in 1798. He came to Indiana and first located at Merom in Sullivan County. But he soon came here and located and remained here until his death. He was regarded as one of the ablest lawyers in the state. His reputation was not confined to the limits of the state. He was frequently employed in important cases in



Samuel Judah.

other states. In the court here he was employed on one side of every important case that came before the court for trial. He was the chief counsel employed by the Vincennes University in the long and tedious litigation springing from the unjust attempt of the Indiana Legislature to deprive the Vincennes University of the grant of lands made to it by Congress. When the case was in the state courts, Mr. Judah was before an unfriendly tribunal and the decisions were always against him. But not discouraged by the adverse decisions of the state court, he persevered and appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, and was there success-

ful and finally prevented the state from diverting the land grants for the benefit of the Indiana University. Mr. Judah married Harriet Brandon, a daughter of Alexander Brandon, and three sons and three daughters were the fruit of this marriage. Of the daughters, Mrs. Alice Clark alone survives. The three sons are living. John M. Judah is a leading attorney of Indianapolis. Noble Judah occupies a prominent position at the bar and in political circles in Chicago. Samuel B. Judah resides in Vincennes and is the Deputy Revenue Collector of this district and collects monthly about a quarter million dollars of internal revenue. Mr. Judah died at Vincennes, April 24, 1869, and was buried in the city cemetery.

ABNER T. ELLIS.

He was born in New England. He came here and commenced the practice of law. He secured a large and lucrative practice and accumulated a large estate. He was for many years President of the Board of Trustees of the Borough of Vincennes. He was an active promoter in organizing the Wabash Navigation Company and in building the lock and dam at the grand rapids of the Wabash River. He was one of the persons who advocated the building of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad connecting the Ohio and Mississppi Rivers by a railroad extending from Cincinnati, Ohio, through Vincennes to St. Louis. He was instrumental in procuring a charter from the States of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, to authorize the building of the road. He was elected the first president of the corporation formed to build it and was re-elected several times. The road was finally biult and in great part through his active support. He was elected Probate Judge of Knox County and also a State Senator from Knox County. After an active life and the accumulation of a large estate, he died in this city in October, 1864, in embarrassed circumstances.

JONATHAN DOTY.

He was born in Somerville, New Jersey, and was a graduate of Princeton College. He came to Vincennes when a very young man but must have had winning and attractive manners as he was elected soon after, and became President Judge of the Knox Circuit Court. But he did not hold the position very long as he died during his term, February 22, 1822.

WILLIAM PRINCE.

He came to Vincennes during territorial days and commenced his active business life here. He was a lawyer by profession. He was elected President Judge of the Knox Circuit Court in 1817. He was a young man when he came here and married Theresa Punyea, a daughter of one of the old resident French families of Vincennes. The family resided on the corner of Main and Sixth streets, where the Presbyterian parsonage now stands. The father and mother of his wife lived to an advanced age, being over ninety years old at death. Judge Prince was elected to Congress from this district in 1824, but died during his term of office. When Gibson County was organized in 1813, Judge Prince removed there with his family and "Princeton," the county seat was named in his honor. He left surviving him, two daughters, one of whom married Samuel Hall, once Lieutenant-Governor of Indiana, and afterwards President of the Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad. Many of his descendants are now living in Princeton. He died in 1824.

RT. REV. SIMON WILLIAM GABRIEL BRUTE.

He was the first Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Vincennes. He was born in Rennes, France, March 20, 1779, of noble parentage. He was finely educated and prepared for a medical profession and a bright field in his native country was open before him. But he turned his back upon it and

determined to enter the ministry and fill up the ranks depleted by the fury of the French Revolution. He arrived at Baltimore, Md., August 10, 1809. He was first engaged in teaching in a seminary in Baltimore, but was soon transferred to Mt. St. Mary's College at Emmitsburg. He built up this college and made it one of the principal seats of learning in this country, a reputation it still enjoys. While quietly employed at this college he was, against his wishes, appointed the first Bishop of the newly created Diocese of Vincennes, then in an impoverished and unorganized condition. He was consecrated by Bishop Flaget of Louisville, at St. Louis, and in company with Bishops Flaget and Purcell, came here and took possession of his pauper diocese, saying his first mass in the unplastered cathedral on November 5, 1834. He soon gained the esteem of the people generally and by his charitable and virtuous deportment, acquired the reputation of sanctity. He died on the 26th of June, 1839, and his remains are entombed in the basement chapel of the cathedral.

RT. REV. CELESTINE RENE LAURENT GUINEMERE DE LA HAILANDIERE.

He was the second Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Vincennes. He was born in the Town of Comborg, France, May 2, 1798. The French Revolution was still desolating France and the Reign of Terror was exterminating the priesthood. Being of noble birth and assured of an honorable career in civil life, he determined to join the ministry and fill up its thinned ranks. He was ordained priest at Paris on May 28, 1825. When Bishop Brute was in France seeking priests for his diocese, he met him and determined to accompany him to this country and aid him in the work of building up his diocese. He arrived at Vincennes in the fall of 1836. He was assigned to work as parish priest at Vincennes and continued to labor in that position until the death of Bishop Brute. At that time he was in France solic-

iting funds for the diocese. He was appointed the second bishop while in France and was consecrated at the Chapel of the Sacred Heart in Paris, by Bishop Janson, assisted by the Bishops of Versailles and Beauvais. Soon after his consecration, he started for Vincennes and arrived here November 14, 1839. He had succeeded in collecting a large sum of money in France which he used in finishing the cathedral. He was a man of liberal ideas and good judgment and foresight and prudently purchased real estate in all parts of the diocese, which was of great value to the church. He continued to preside over the diocese until 1848, when he resigned the see and returned to his ancestral home in France. Here he lived in retirement on his estate at Triandin, France, until he died on May 1, 1882. He never forgot the diocese of Vincennes and every year sent from his private means considerable sums of money to aid the diocese. He always expressed a wish to be buried in Vincennes. In accordance with this desire, his nephew, Ernest Audran, went to France and procured his remains, and brought them to Vincennes, and on the 22d of November, 1882, they were entombed with appropriate religious services in the basement chapel of the cathedral.

RT. REV. JAMES M. MAURICE DE LONG DE ST. PALAIS.

He was the fourth Bishop of Vincennes. He was born at La Salvetat in the Diocese of Montpelier, in the south of France, November 15, 1811. He was descended from an ancient and noble family. He could trace his ancestry back through centuries. His family was wealthy. But he decided on a ministerial course and for this purpose was educated at the celebrated Seminary of St. Sulpice at Paris. He finished his theological studies at this seminary and was ordained priest by Bishop Brute when he was on a visit to France. He determined to devote his life to missionary work in the West. He came to Vincennes and was assigned to duty in various

parts of the diocese. He was for some time at Chicago, when it was a mere village. He was afterwards at Logansport and other small missionary stations in the state, undergoing all the hardships and privations incident to pioneer life in the wilderness. He was on the death of Bishop Bazin, appointed the fourth Bishop of Vincennes on October 3, 1848. On the 14th of January, 1849, he was consecrated Bishop in St. Francis Xavier Cathedral by Bishop Miles of Nashville, and Bishop Spaulding of Louisville. He immediately entered on the discharge of his duties. He soon gained the good will of all with whom he came in contact, and of all denominations. He was the most unassuming and approachable man that was ever known in Vincennes. He seemed to be as innocent as a child and always had a pleasant word for any one he met. He was connected with the Diocese of Vincennes for 41 years, 13 of which he spent as a missionary priest in a wild and sparsely settled country, and 28 as head of the diocese. He died very suddenly at St. Mary's Academy near Terre Haute, June 28, 1877, and his remains were entombed in the basement chapel of the cathedral.

REV. SAMUEL T. SCOTT.

He was the pastor of the Presbyterian church of this place, who died December 30, 1827. This good and exemplary pastor was virtually the builder and organizer of the Presbyterian church and congregation in Vincennes. By his pure holy and exemplary life he endeared himself to all classes of people and his death was universally regretted. We extract from the Western Sun of January 12, 1828, from an obituary notice of this truly good and pious pastor:

"In the death of this worthy and pious man society is bereaved of one of its most useful and amiable members. The general gloom spread over the country! the number larger than we have ever witnessed here on a similar occasion

who assembled to pay the deceased the last solemn tribute of their respect; the tears of affection and friendship shed upon his grave are evidences strong and clear of the worth of our departed friend."

HENRY M. SHAW.

He was the pastor of the Episcopal church here for many years. In addition to his pastoral duties he conducted a seminary for the education of young ladies. He was one of the most eloquent men who ever lived in Vincennes. On the occasion of Lafayette's visit to this country in 1825, he was selected by the citizens here to go to Louisville and deliver a welcome address on the occasion of his visit to that city. He went and delivered the address of welcome which was pronounced by Lafayette and the many who heard it, to have been the finest address delivered on such occasions, among the many which had been delivered in different parts of the country. He was elected to represent this district in the Senate of Indiana. After a long and brilliant career here, he determined to go to Texas and locate. He started with his family but died on the way and his family returned to this place.

MICHAEL EDGAR SHAWE.

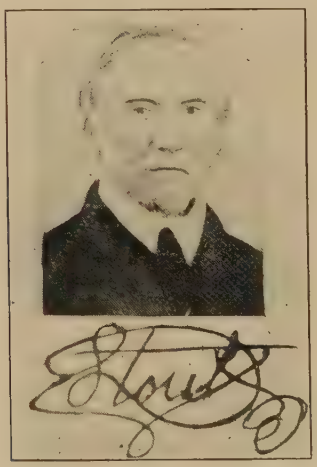
He was born in England in the village of Oscott. He received a fine education and was appointed a captain in the British army. During his military service the battle of Waterloo was fought and his regiment was in the thickest of the battle. He received a severe wound and was carried from the field and it was thought he could not recover. But his mother hastened to his side and nursed him through a sickness of many months. After his recovery, he determined to abandon a military career and become a minister of the gospel. He resigned his commission in the British army and went to the Seminary of St. Sulpice in Paris, to study for the ministry. He finished his ecclesiastical studies here. But before

his ordination was found by Bishop Brute, then in France, seeking priests for his diocese. He agreed to accompany him and came here with him and was ordained priest by the bishop, March 12, 1837. He was among the most gifted and eloquent men who ever resided here. He immediately commenced his career as a Catholic priest. He accompanied the bishop on his visitation throughout the diocese, preaching everywhere to large congragations. He was first stationed at Madison and by his exertions, built up St. Michael's church. He was afterwards appointed Professor of Belles Lettres in Notre Dame University and continued his connection with that university for several years, and left it in a flourishing condition. He was appointed pastor of the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul at Detroit. His brilliant career was unfortunately terminated by an accident when on his way to consecrate a church in the vicinity of Detroit, which resulted in his death, May 10, 1853. His remains were interred in the family lot of R. R. Elliott, a banker of Detroit, who erected a fine monument over his grave, with the coat of arms of his family inscribed upon it.

ELIHU STOUT.

He was born in Newark, New Jersey, and learned the printers trade. He came West and obtained employment on the Kentucky Gazette, published at Lexington, Kentucky, by the Bradfords. He remained with them several years. Afterwards he went to Nashville, Tennessee, and obtained employment there. He there made the acquaintance of Andrew Jackson and contracted a friendship which continued during their lives. When the Indiana Territory was organized he determined to come to Vincennes, the capital of the territory, and start a newspaper. He made all the necessary preparations to start his paper, surmounting many difficulties. He finally surmounted them all and issued the first number of

his paper, July 4, 1804. This office was destroyed by fire in 1806. But he immediately went to Kentucky and purchased another outfit. And on the 4th of July, 1807, he issued a number of his paper. This was the first paper published within the limits of Indiana, and the first paper published anywhere in the Northwest Territory save the "Liberty Hall" and "Cincinnati Gazette," published at Cincinnati, Ohio, a few months previous. This paper thus founded has with slight interruptions, a continued existance to the present time.



Elihu Stout.

It is now and has always been Democratic in politics. In 1845, Mr. Stout was appointed postmaster at Vincennes, and severed his connection with the press. At the expiration of his term as postmaster, he was elected by the voters of Knox County, Recorder of Deeds for two terms, although the county was strongly opposed to him in politics at the time. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was also a very enthusiastic Free Mason and was the first Master

of the Lodge here. After the organization of the Grand Lodge of Indiana, he was elected Grand Master of that lodge. He often requested during life to be buried by the Masonic fraternity. His death was very sudden and hastened by the troubles in the Democratic party in 1860, which he believed would result in the dissolution of the Union or a long and bloody war. He died in April, 1860, and according to his wishes was buried with Masonic orders in the city cemetery.

JOHN F. BAYARD.

He was born in Grenoble, France, September 11, 1786. He enlisted in the French army and became an officer in the Grand Army of the Empire under Bonaparte. He partici-

John F. Bayard.

pated in the various campaigns and battles in which the Grand Army took part. He fortunately passed through the ordeal unhurt. When the Emperor abdicated in 1815, he resigned his commission in the army and received an honorable discharge. He then determined to leave France and come to the United States. He applied for and received permission from the authorities to emigrate. He came to this country

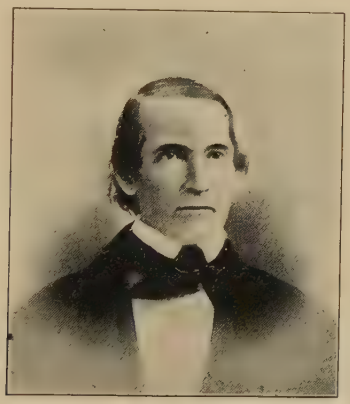
and settled for brief periods in different places. He finally came to Vincennes about 1820, and permanently located. He married here, Mary Ann Boneau in 1823, and became the father of a large family, six daughters and three sons. The children all married. Susan married M. A. Pilard, Mary Louise married Prosper Eluere, Adelia married Marcelle D. Lacroix, Eleanor P. married Charles A. Weisert, Mary Elizabeth married Henry V. Somes and Margaret Clotilda married Henry S. Cauthorn. The three sons all become prominent and influential bank men. Samuel was president of the largest bank in Evansville at the time of his death. John Francis was a prominent bank man here until his death and Joseph L. Bayard is now president of the First National Bank of Vincennes, Indiana.

Mr. John F. Bayard was a successful business man and left a large estate. He was an exemplary and practical Catholic. He died February 13, 1853, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery.

JOHN MOORE.

Judge Moore, as he was familiarly called, was born in the City of Staunton, Virginia, in the year 1788. He came to Vincennes at a very early age in time to enlist in the army which Gen. Harrison raised for the Tippecanoe Campaign in 1811, and went with that army and took part in that bloody battle. He afterwards returned to this place and enlisted in a company and performed valuable services in the Black Hawk war. After that war was over he commenced here as a builder and contractor of public and private buildings. He built the Knox County Court House, the Town Hall and St. James Episcopal church, and in fact, all the principal public and private buildings erected in the town for thirty years. He also during that time filled many places of trust and profit under the Borough Government, and was Trustee, Marshal and President of the Board of Trustees of the Borough. He was

elected Judge of the Knox County Probate Court and for many years discharged the duties of that important position with fidelity and general satisfaction. He was a careful and prudent financier and on account of his peculiar fitness for the position, was appointed agent of the Vincennes Branch of the State Bank of Indiana, which responsible position he filled and held with marked ability until the charter of the bank expired. When the city government was organized in 1856, he was elected first Mayor of the city and was re-elected to



John Moore.

the same position. The city was organized soon after the state law was passed providing for the organization of cities. It was one of the first cities organized under that law and was without a code of ordinances for its government. The first City Council by resolution required the city attorney to prepare and report a code of ordinances for its government. The writer was at the time city attorney and was engaged for a period of two years in drafting and reporting such a code as the ordinances had to be drafted without any guide to resort to as no city in the state had at the time any code. In

the preparation of the code of ordinances, Judge Moore by his experience and acquaintance in dealing with such matters, rendered the writer important and invaluable services. The code of ordinances thus prepared was published by Harvey Mason & Co., comprising according to recollection over 200 pages of printed matter. Before the expiration of his second term as Mayor, he was appointed by President Buchanan, postmaster at Vincennes, and during his four years term discharged his duties faithfully and satisfactorily to the citizens. At the end of his term as postmaster he retired from active business having by prudence, industry and economy acquired a fortune sufficient for all his wants. He was a model and upright citizen, a kind and affectionate father. He was a member of the Catholic church and a Democrat in politics. He died December 23, 1864, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery on Christmas day.

SAMUEL WISE.

He was born in Brownsville, Pennsylvania. He came to Vincennes and permanently located. He was preceeded here by his brother, John, and later by his brother, William J. These three brothers formed the partnership of J. S. & W. J. Wise, which has the distinction of a continued existence of thirty-five years and was never settled until after the death of all the partners. After the death of William J. Wise, the last survivor of the firm, the partnership affairs were adjusted and the heirs of John and Samuel received their portion without any trouble. But William J. Wise never married and made a will and after a long and expensive contest, the will was sustained and his interest distributed among his devisees. Mr. Samuel Wise possessed good judgment and his advice was always sought. He was very unassuming and was kind to all who approached him. He was a very ardent Democrat and took a deep interest in politics. He was a great admirer

of John C. Calhoun and warmly espoused his views. He was not an office seeker, but he was appointed by President Polk, Receiver of Public Monies at this place, which was the only official position he ever held. He was not a member of any secret society or of any church. But his family affiliated with the Presbyterian church and he was always ready to furnish aid to that church. He died suddenly November 3, 1855.

ANDREW GARDNER

He was born in the State of Massachusetts. He came to Vincennes and located permanently in 1816. He engaged in the cabinet making and undertaking business which he continued until his death. He was the principal undertaker in the place during his life. After his death the business was successfully carried on by his son, E. G. Gardner, who is still living at the advanced age of 82 years. He voluntarily retired from business and passed its good will to his son, Dexter Gardner, who continued it alone for many years and last year took his son, George Gardner, as partner, and they are still conducting the same business originally started in 1816 by Andrew Gardner. The business is now conducted by Dexter Gardner & Son, who are the principal undertakers in the city. Andrew Gardner was a model citizen. He was frequently called to fill important offices in the Borough of Vincennes. He was not an office seeker and the positions he obtained were freely bestowed upon him. He was on one occasion the Democratic candidate for Treasurer of Knox County. The politics of the county was strongly Whig at the time, and that party fearing the personal popularity of Mr. Gardner, nominated against him, James Johnson, their strongest man. The race was exciting but Mr. Johnson was elected by a very small majority. Mr. Gardner was a faithful member of the Methodist church. He died in the spring of 1860.

NICHOLAS SMITH.

Mr. Smith was one of the oldest successful and highly respected business men who ever resided in Vincennes. He was of Scotch descent. He was born in the City of Newark, New Jersey, September 14, 1790. His father lost his life in the Passaic River when he was only two years old. He was thus thrown upon his own resources, but he set out with an earnest determination to make his way through the world. In 1810 he came to Cincinnati, Ohio, and opened a tin shop on Fourth street. Two years later he returned on foot to his native city. In 1817 he again came West intending to locate in St. Louis. On his way he passed though Vincennes. After remaining in St. Louis a very short time he determined to return to Vincennes and permanently locate here. He opened a hardware store on the corner of Main and Second streets and afterwards removed to the large brick building which he erected on Main street, where he continued to carry on business until his death in conjunction with his two sons, John A. and Edward H. Smith. During seventeen years of his life, he engaged in trading and boating to New Orleans. He also engaged in land speculation in Indiana and Illinois, travelling on horseback over the Wabash Valley in both states, and became widely known in the Wabash Valley as far as Lafayette. His boating and trading operations to New Orleans were conducted on an extensive scale, some years sending as many as forty flatboats down the Mississppi River. He was strictly attentive to his own business affairs and was never tempted to engage in politics or any other outside matters. By his sagacity and prudence he amassed a large fortune which he left to his children. Two of his sons are still in business in this city and two others built up one of the largest hardware establishments in Terre Haute. Mr. Smith was not a member of any religious society, but was partial to the Presbyterian church and contributed largely to the sup-

port of that church. He was up to the time of his death very vigorous and active and was an early riser and every day until a few days before his death, was one of the first to be seen on the streets of the city. Notwithstanding his extensive business transactions, he did so without friction or incurring the ill will of any one with whom he had dealings, and enjoyed the good will and friendship of all the citizens of the city. He was probably the best known of any of the citizens of Vincennes. He died on Tuesday, August 1, 1871, after a brief illness of only four days. As a testimony of his standing and appreciation among his friends and neighbors, his remains were followed to the grave by an immense concourse of citizens.

BENJAMIN V. BECKES.

He was of Welch descent but was born in Vincennes in 1786. He was raised in Vincennes and spoke French fluently. He was a farmer and stock raiser and was very successful and accumulated a large estate. His brother, Parmenas Beckes, was Sheriff of the county in 1813, and was killed in a duel with Dr. Edward Skull. Benjamin V. Beckes was appointed to fill out the balance of his term and was twice re-elected to the same office. He was brave to a fault and commanded troops in the Indian wars in this part of the country. He was captain of a company in the Black Hawk war. He also commanded a company at the battle of Tippecanoe. He was kind and generous to his friends. He never forgot a friend or forgave an enemy. He served in the State Legislature several terms. He was a Democrat in politics and took a deep interest in all political matters. He was a member of the Catholic church at his death and was buried in the Catholic cemetery.

GEORGE E. GREENE.

He was born in Bardstown, Kentucky, July 12, 1826, of Irish parentage. He learned the printers trade and in 1837

was employed in the office of the Louisville Journal, then conducted by the celebrated George D. Prentice. He remained here until the fall of 1856, when he came here and purchased the Western Sun newspaper. That paper when he purchased it was entirely run down, and its publication suspended. Mr. Greene soon resurrected it and made it one of the most influential papers in the state. When he came here the parties were about equally divided in politics. But Mr. Greene took the lead and management of party affairs. He attended all conventions and public meetings of the party and planned all campaigns. He managed affairs so successfully that the Democratic party soon had a majority of 1200 in the county. He was a magnetic man and attracted to him all persons with whom he came in contact. He was appointed Registrar of the Land Office here and remained in office until the records were destroyed by fire in April, 1860. He was elected by the Legislature one of the directors of the Indiana State Prison at Jeffersonville, for a term of four years. In 1869 he was elected Mayor of the City of Vincennes. He was a very social man and a welcome guest at all social functions. He was a member of the Catholic church and was buried in the Catholic cemetery. He died October 15, 1870.

LEWIS L. WATSON.

Mr. Watson is one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Vincennes. He was born in Vincennes on the 13th day of April, 1809. His father, Robert G. Watson, was of Scotch descent and was a prominent merchant and fur trader of Vincennes. His mother, Genevieve Watson, was descended from one of the oldest French families, who came here as early as 1704. Mr. Watson received but limited educational advantages in his youth, but in after life by study and application, he acquired a fine business education which he utilized in his business affairs. In 1826 he went to St. Louis

and learned the tailors trade. He soon returned to his native town to follow his trade, but in 1832 he returned to St. Louis, but in 1832 returned to Vincennes and has resided here ever since. He worked at his trade in partnership with the late Samuel R. Dunn until 1849, when he was appointed by President Taylor, postmaster at Vincennes. He continued in this office until 1853. He then was appointed Collector of Tolls of the Wabash Navigation Company at the lock and dam of the Wabash River, at the grand rapids. He then served for a short time as the conductor of a passenger train on the Evansville and Crawfordsville Railroad, now known as the Evansville and Terre Haute Railroad. He was soon promoted and appointed agent of the railroad at Vincennes. He also at the same time carried on a lumber yard in partnership with the late Charles Dawes. In 1859 he was appointed paymaster and supply agent of the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, which he resigned in 1871, to take an active part in the hotel business in partnership with the late Isaac Mass and with him established the Union Depot Hotel which business he still carries on in partnership with his son, Edward Watson. Mr. Watson by an energetic and prudent business career, has accumulated a large fortune until he is now reputed as one of the wealthiest men in Vincennes. He is a member of the Roman Catholic church and in politics is a Democrat. He was married November 6, 1832, to Lydia Fellows, a daughter of Captain Willis Fellows. To this union twelve children were born, four sons and two daughters are yet living. Mr. Watson at his advanced age still survives and continues to act as a director of the First National Bank of Vincennes, one of the largest banking institutions in the city.

GEORGE WALLACE JONES.

He was born in Vincennes on April 12, 1804. He was the son of John Rice Jones, who was a native of Wales. He was educated at Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky. He left Vincennes and first went to Missouri, but in 1827, he moved to Sissinewa Mound, Wisconsin. In 1829 he married Josephine Gregoire of St. Genevieve, Missouri. He served in

John Rice Jones.

the Black Hawk war on Gov. Dodge's staff. In 1835 he was elected delegate to Congress from Michigan, and re-elected in 1837. In 1840 he was appointed Surveyor General at Dubuque. In 1848 he was elected to the United States Senate from Iowa, holding the position eleven years. In 1859 he was appointed Minister to Bogota. He died at Dubuque, Iowa, July 22, 1896, and was buried in Mt. Olivet cemetery.

JOHN EWING.

He was born in Ireland, but he always claimed that he was born on an American ship on the ocean on his way to this country. But after his death his naturalization papers taken out in the Marine Court of Baltimore, were found by his

administrator. His rich Irish brogue detected his ancestry. In the heated political contest of 1844, his vote was challenged and he was called upon to produce his naturalization papers. This he refused to do claiming to be an American citizen. This challenge came near producing a riot which was only prevented by the challenge being withdrawn. He came to Vincennes very rich and engaged in merchandizing. But possessing a diamond mind and fine education, he soon drifted into politics. He was a fluent and versatile speaker. He was elected to many positions under the borough. He was also frequently elected a member of the Senate and House of the Indiana Legislature. He was also elected to Congress for two terms from this district. Being a ready speaker his services were in constant demand during the campaigns of 1840 and 1844, and he made a speech almost every day in some part of Indiana or Illinois. He was of a very excitable disposition which prevented him accomplishing the good his talents would otherwise have enabled him to do. Mr. Ewing before his death had gotten away with all his estate and in his last days was an object of charity. He never married and lived a lonely life. He died April 6, 1858, and was buried in the city cemetery in a lot by himself and thus sleeps his last sleep as solitary as he lived.

WILLIAM E. NIBLACK.

He was born in Dubois County, Indiana, May 19, 1823. He studied law and commenced the practice at Mt. Pleasant, then the county seat of Martin County. He was elected from Martin County to the State Legislature and also to the Senate of Indiana. He declined a re-election to the Senate. In 1854 he was appointed Judge of the Judicial Circuit Court in which Knox County was situated and came here to reside. While still on the bench of the Circuit Court he was nominated by the Democrats for Congress and was elected without

opposition. He was re-elected a member of Congress by large popular majorities until his service in Congress was fourteen years. He was also elected in 1862 a member of the House of Representatives in the Indiana Legislature. After his congressional career he was nominated in 1876 as the Democratic candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court of Indiana and was elected. On the expiration of his first term he was re-elected and thus served on that exalted tribunal twelve years. He was a candidate for re-election in 1888 but went down with his party in the defeat of that year. This was the first and only defeat at an election before the people he ever sustained. All the official positions he occupied seemed to come to him unasked for. He was the most successful candidate before the people the state has ever produced. After his defeat for Supreme Judge in 1888, he removed to Indianapolis, as it presented a wider field for the practice of his profession. He soon came into a large practice which was abruptly terminated by his death May 7, 1893. His remains were buried in Crown Hill cemetery at Indianapolis.

JOHN LAW.

He was a native of New London, Connecticut, where he was born October 24, 1796. He came to Vincennes and located for the practice of law in 1817. He rose rapidly at the bar and in public estimation. For more than a quarter of a century he was the central figure in all enterprises and projects calculated to advance Vincennes. He was its first historian and being a fine orator he held a high place in the councils of his party and was generally alluded to as the favorite son of Knox County. He was Prosecuting Attorney and Judge of the Knox Circuit Court, Receiver of Public Monies for this district, United States Commissioner to adjust land titles in this district and a member of Congress for two terms. A short time before his death he removed to

Evansville to look after the landed interests of a brother who resided in Connecticut. But he always cherished a love and affection for Vincennes and wished to be buried here. He

John Law.

married Sarah Ewing, a daughter of Nathaniel Ewing. He died October 7, 1873, at Evansville, Indiana, and according to his request his remains were brought here and buried in the city cemetery.

THOMAS R. COBB.

He was born in Lawrence County, Indiana, July 2, 1828. He studied law and commenced the practice at Bedford, Indiana, in 1853. In 1867 he removed to Vincennes and in partnership with Newton F. Malott commenced the practice here. This firm soon secured a large and profitable business. In 1870 Mr. Malott was elected Judge of the Knox Circuit Court. The business of the late firm was successfully continued by Mr. Cobb until 1876, when he was elected to Congress from this district. He was re-elected to Congress by

successive elections for ten consecutive years. Before he came here to reside he had been elected to the State Senate of Indiana and was a prominent and influential member of that body. After he came here he was elected a member of the City Council of Vincennes. He was also the Democratic candidate for presidential elector in 1868 and made a thorough canvass of the district. As a member of Congress he was chairman of the Committee on Public Lands and through his exertions, "Harrison Park" was donated by Congress to Vincennes. Mr. Cobb died in 1893 and was buried in the city cemetery.

The list of the number of distinguished men who have been connected with Vincennes in the past could be extended, but time and space forbid.

CHAPTER XXVI.

PARTIAL LIST OF PROMINENT CITIZENS SUBSEQUENT TO 1800.

A partial list of prominent citizens of Vincennes, subsequent to the year 1800.

LAWYERS.

Cyrus M. Allen, Joseph G. Bowman, William W. Carr, William A. Jones, F. W. Viehe, John M. Boyle, R. N. Carnan, Robert F. McConahey, John Baker, Newton F. Malott, J. C. Denny, John M. Clark, Jonathan Keith, C. B. Kessinger, Willoughby & House, W. H. & E. H. DeWolf, W. H. Pennington, L. A. Meyer, W. C. Johnson, Samuel W. Williams, Calverley & Judah, Johnson & Hill, R. F. Davis, W. Harrow, Joseph Randolph, A. L. Harbinson, A. W. McClure, Cullop & Shaw, A. T. Cobb, Emison & Moffet, M. J. Niblack, W. S. Hoover, Coulter & Beckes, Haughton & Emison, R. L. Buckles, G. G. Reily, Orestes Philipps, H. S. Cauthorn, Jr., B. M. Thomas, James S. Pritchett, John T. Goodman, J. P. L. Weems, Harry Lewis, C. E. Dailey, Henry Fauntleroy, Cyr Poullet, Robert G. Cauthorn, John Wilhelm, Charles G. McCord.

PHYSICIANS.

Dr. Offut, Daniel Stahl, Joseph Browne, John J. Baty, H. M. Smith, L. M. Beckes, H. W. Held, Patrick Caney, S. C. Beard, M. G. Moore, Dr. Anderson, Norman E. Beckes, Joseph Somes, T. H. Maxedon, Georgge Knapp, J. R. Mante, W. W. Hitt, J. S. Sawyer, O'Connell Fairhurst, M. M. McDowell, W. H. Davenport, Dr. Von Knappe, R. B. Jessup, Dr. Troost, Dr. McCoy, Dr. Hall, Dr. Smadell, Dr. Branstop, Hiram Decker, Dr. Harris, J. C. Bever, W. M. Hindman, W. B. Ridgway, Dr. Stewart, J. P. Ramsey, Solomon Rathbone.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Frederick Graeter, Elihu Stout, Samuel Hill, Martin Rob-

inson, John B. Martin, David McHenry, Milton L. Edson, Zachariah Pulliem, James S. Mayes, Thomas Reilly, Joseph Woodman, George W. McCoy, E. A. Baecher, Edward Weisert, Joseph Fowee, John Collins.

REAL ESTATE AGENTS.

Benjamin F. Wheeler, Henry W. Alexander, H. J. Foulks, W. L. Tewalt, Haines & Simonson, John Stork, J. S. Spiker.

MINISTERS.

Thomas Alexander, Henry M. Shaw, Michael E. Shawe, John F. Smith, Eli B. Smith, Aaron Woods, Elijah Whitten, Thomas J. Clark, Aegedius Merz, P. B. O'Connor, Thomas McLaughlin, W. H. Carter, B. B. Killykelly.

LANDLORDS.

Peter Jones, Mark Barnett, Christian Graeter, John C. Clark, Royal H. Gould, William Busse, George Weisenberger, Edward Lindner, Edward Watson, Charles W. Padgett, Parmenas Beckes, Patrick Doran, Hyacinthe Lasselle, Thomas J. Beeler, John Kuhn.

BUSINESS MEN.

John D. Hay, William Meuire, Blum, Bernard & Co., George Davis, Tomlinson & Rose, John K. Kuntz, H. D. Wheeler, Burtch & Heberd, J. S. & W. J. Wise, Smith & Carson, Rose & Harper, Bedford, Shelmiere & Co., Samuel Bruner, David S. Bonner, Thorn & Tracy, G. Cruikshank & Co., Robert Smith & Co., A. W. Morris, Luck & Landel, Adam Gimbel, M. D. Lacroix, Charles Graeter, John Caldwell, William Hays, J. W. Maddox, Theodore Huslage, Isaac Joseph, John B. & Peter E. LaPlante, Charles A. Weisert, Gerhard Reiter, L. B. Smith, James T. Cox, Curry & Coons, E. G. Gardner, Frank Horsting, Henry Soete, N. Smith & Sons, Wilkins & Robinson, Page & Orr, Thing & Potter, W. J. Heberd & Sons, H. P. Brokaw, J. & H. Ostendorf, B. Kuhn & Co.,

J. C. Cohen, W. E. Browne, & Co., H. T. Roseman, George Kerkhoff & Co., Harvey Mason & Co., Emison & Green, John A. Louis, William Huey, J. H. Shepard & Co., E. B. Ramsdell, Edward Bierhaus & Sons, Bierhaus Bros., Moore & Harris, F. W. Tweitmeyer, Hall Bros., John Burke, J. W. Cassell, H. J. Hellert, F. W. Ritterskamp, John Hoffman, Christian Hoffman, Bernard & Beckes, J. & T. Hayes, B. Knirihm, G. Weinstein & Co., L. A. Wise & Co., H. Willoughby & Son, S. Blum & Co., Perry Tindolph, Fred Harsh, Charles S. Miller, Isaac Lazurus, H. J. Watjen, W. A. Markee, J. M. Duesterberg, M. Bauer, V. Schoenfield, William Davidson, J. Bernstein, J. H. Dunn, J. A. Breivogel, Joseph Ohnemus, H. F. Thuis, Sebastian Risch & Sons, Risch & Heller, Henry Badollet, O. C. Busse, W. W. Cassell, G. R. Alsop, William Baker, John Turney, George W. Donaldson, Robinson & Donaldson, W. J. Freeman, M. O'Donnell, John Loten, Salyards & Burns, John Hartigan, R. M. Glass, J. & S. Emison, T. H. Adams, R. E. Purcell, W. W. Bailey & Bros., A. V. Crotts, W. J. Nicholson, A. Kapps, George Klein, C. H. Blase, C. J. Lipe, A. Philipson, Racey & Palfrey, Bratton & Racey, L. Moyes, C. F. Schultz, C. Lane, J. S. Kitchell, Burnet & Eastham, William H. Glover & Co., James A. Plummer, Speigle & Gardner, P. R. McCarthy, John Watson, S. R. Jackman, Gimbel Haughten & Bond, Georgge Fendrich, Joseph Smith, E. Younghans, John Schwartz, Frank A. Hines, M. Tyler Son & Co., Hiram A. Foulks, Miller & Shepard, H. M. Hackman, Geo. Harris, P. Eluere & Sons, J. B. Ramsdell, Frank Krack, George Harris, P. Eluere & Sons, J. F. Sechler & Co., A. Marone, John Kuhn, H. M. Townsley, D. J. Philips, Norman, E. Beckes, J. W. Emison & Co., F. J. Trengaw, A. J. Taylor, John Murphy, Thomas Kilfoil, Thomas Borrowman, E. L. Ryder, F. M. Mail, W. Tromley, Merchant Bros., Peter Marchino, F. A. Yocum, Planke Bros., E. E. Shores, J. C. Haartze, Moses Wile, Auton Lahr, John C. Holland, Charles

Dawes, Henry Schaffer, M. Johnson & Co., W. H. Weed, Albert M. & Edward Shepard, Isaac N. Eastham, A. L. Cornoyer, W. B. Robinson, A. M. Yelton, James Ewing, Patrick Moore, Morgan Jones, O. McCone, S. & J. Lyons, Lyttleton Timms, Samuel Miller, Ben Fritch, Eugene Hack, Anton Simon, Frank Liberman, O. B. Wietzell, William Williamson, R. J. McKenney, Will L. Tewalt, V. Geese, John B. Brouillette, W. W. Berry, John W. Carnan, Emanuel Meisenhelter, R. Y. Caddington, Isaac Lazarus, William Nugent, John Vickery, Jacob Metzger, F. M. Fay, Alexander Von Smith, Martin Agnew, James W. Greenhow, John Myers, Herman Brokhage, George W. Rathbone, Samuel Bayard, Major W. Gould, Nelson Sparrow.

CHAPTER XXVII.

CONCLUSION.

It must be admitted that Vincennes has a past history that is both venerable and honorable and that places her in the front rank among the cities of the state. It is true that for years she was held in abeyance by a sort of Rip Van Winkle sleep that paralyzed her energies and prevented her material progress. But this condition of affairs on account of the infusion of new blood consequent upon the arrival of active and enterprising citizens has been arrested and the ancient city aroused from her long lethargy, has entered upon a splendid career of progress. The old order of things has been done away and a new and active era has been evolved from this change of population. The hard working and prudent German, the energetic and prolific Irishman and many other races from Europe have come and infused new life in the mass of our population. The influence is producing good results in the many evidences of prosperity and accomplished results. The money making Yankee and the discerning Jew can be seen on our streets. In fact everything today is indicative of a glorious future for the City of Vincennes.

But this bright prospect although long delayed might have been expected from the opinions of the place and its natural advantages expressed by the missionary fathers who first visited it before the advent of civilized men and when it was in the midst of a vast wilderness. These men were far seeing and almost with prophetic vision foretold the future of various places they visited in their wanderings. In no instance have their prophetic utterances failed of fruition unless it shall be in the solitary instance of Vincennes. They declared that the site of this place when they first beheld it was des-

tined on account of its surroundings to become in course of time the seat of a great city, possessing an extensive commerce, great wealth and a dense population. They made the same prophetic utterances with reference to Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Louisville, Detroit, Chicago, St. Paul, St. Louis, San Francisco and many other cities, which have since, all verified their predictions. And why should their opinions with regard to Vincennes not be realized? Its splendid location and immediate surroundings indicate that the city will in the future go forward with gigantic strides. There is nothing in nature or political conditions in the way of its accomplishment. If the citizens will all take heart and put their shoulder to the wheel of progress, it will roll forward with increasing speed year by year. Everything at present indicates that we are on the eve of the realization of golden dreams and that the dull and monotonous past will be swallowed up and obliterated from memory in the brilliant achievement of the opening future. That this will be an accomplished fact we have no more doubt than we have when we see the sun sink behind the western horizon at nightfall, that it will rise again on the morrow, with undimmed brilliancy. All that is necessary is for all the citizens to work together in harmony and with united action for its accomplishment and it will be accomplished.